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GUJARAT STATE GAZETTEERS



Government of Gujarat

BANASKANTHA DISTRICT

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AHMADABAD

1981

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**GAZETTEER OF INDIA
GUJARAT STATE GAZETTEERS
BANASKANTHA DISTRICT**

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P R E F A C E

The former Gazetteer for Banaskantha formed part of the *Bombay Gazetteer*, Vol. V, published in 1880 A. D., under the title of '*Cutch, Palanpur and Mahi Kantha*.' A hundred years have since elapsed during which the district has witnessed far-reaching changes in its social, economic and political conditions. The district has changed many hands in its administrative set-up also. Literary and epigraphic sources do not throw much light on the early history of this district. It is assumed, however, that the district was ruled by the same successive dynasties that ruled over other parts of Gujarat in the early period. It was under the rule of Rajput dynasties of Anhilwad Patan before it came under the control of the Muslim Sultans. The territory therefore went, in turn, to the Mughals, the Marathas and the British.

Banaskantha, as its name denotes, forms part of the Banas Valley of Banas, the main river of the district. The district comprises the former princely States of Palanpur, Radhanpur, Tharad, Vav, Danta, Deodar and Thara Jagirs and the old Agency thanas of Varahi, Sihori, Santalpur, Bhabhar and the sub-thana of Suigam. Of these, Palanpur and Radhanpur were class I States whereas Danta was a class II State. Palanpur was one of the oldest states and has a continuous history right from the 15th century till its merger in the Bombay State. Radhanpur was the seat of the Babi rulers. On the achievement of Independence, these States and estates were dissolved into the Indian Union and merged in the then Banaskantha district thus enlarging its existing territorial boundaries. Banaskantha district formed part of the then Bombay State till 1960. It now forms one of the constituent parts of Gujarat State.

The district is spread over an area of 12,702 sq. km. constituting 6.5 per cent of the total area of the State. From this point of view it is the third largest district in Gujarat.

Banaskantha is the Gateway of Gujarat. People from Rajasthan, Sindh and northern India came to Gujarat *via* Abu Valley, Tharad or Santalpur. The Aryans, Huns, Gurjars, Shrimali Baniyas and Brahmins and Oswal and Porvad Baniyas, and some Rajput tribes settled in this district in the past through these routes. The Rabaris of Mota village have still preserved "Hun" surname, which suggests

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their association with white Huns who came to India during the 5th century.

In respect of demography, there are some noteworthy features. In 1971 it had a total population of 12.65 lakh person. Out of these as much as 90.55 per cent comprised rural population and only 9.45 per cent formed the urban component. The district has thus predominantly rural characteristics. The literacy rate has been of the order of 15.76 per cent, which is much below the State average of 35.79 per cent. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes population consisted of 9.85 and 6.15 per cent respectively against the State average of 6.84 and 13.99 per cent respectively.

Banaskantha is mainly an agricultural district, as nearly 80 per cent of its working population is engaged in agriculture and allied activities. It is one of the largest producers of foodgrains in the State. Looking to its importance, the Gujarat Agriculture University has been headquartered at Dantiwada in this district. Banaskantha is the home tract of the world famous Kankrej breed of cattle. The Banas Dairy project established at Palanpur in 1974-75 is the first project to be commissioned under the "Operation Flood Programme." A major part of the district receives a meagre rainfall and is therefore, chronically affected by drought conditions. However, it has some area under irrigation due mainly to the Dantiwada major irrigation project constructed on the river Banas at an estimated cost of Rs. 11 crores.

The district can reasonably feel proud on account of location of many important places of interest. There is the well-known temple of Ambaji Mata, one of the holiest and important places of Hindu pilgrimage in Gujarat. Bhiladiaji is a sacred place of Jain pilgrimage, and Amirgadh has a famous temple of Chamunda Mata. Balaram, a picnic spot of great scenic beauty, is located near village Chitrasani. The famous Jain temples at Kumbharia contain beautifully carved ceilings. The holy river Saraswati originates from this district. Palanpur, the district headquarters, is, a very old settlement and is said to be the birth place of Siddharaj of Chaulukya dynasty. Tharad, the oldest town of the Palanpur Agency, is said to have been founded as early as 115 A. D.

The district has a fairly good stock of minerals like lime, marble, etc., which are dug out from the quarries situated near Amirgadh

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and Ambaji. A multi-metals project has been established by the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation at Ambaji. There is also possibility of getting copper, lead and silver near the Ambaji hills. The quality of white marble excavated from these quarries is considered superior even to that found from Makrana in Sind. This marble has been utilised in the construction of the beautiful Jain temples at Kumbharia. However, the district is industrially backward as compared to many other districts of Gujarat. In respect of banking, transport and communications, the picture is much the same.

In the series of the Gujarat District Gazetteers published by the State Government, this is seventeenth. The work of preparing this Gazetteer was completed during the stewardship of Dr. S. B. Rajyagor, who left the charge after sending the draft to the press. Shri S. Tripathy, I. A. S., who took over as Chief Editor towards the close of June 1978, took steps to expedite the work of printing of the Gazetteer. I took over from April 1980. I found that Banaskantha district possesses great archaeological remains, which were unknown till recently. Not much excavations work was carried out after the initial attempt by Burgess and Cousens in the latter part of the 19th century. Dr. R. T. Parikh of the M. S. University of Vadodara has written a thesis on the subject. Therefore in order to enhance the value and importance of this publication, the work of preparing an article on the archaeology of the district was entrusted to him. This has been included as an Appendix to the Volume. A set of rare and distinct illustrations throwing lurid light on the subject has also been included. This will help people to know about the rich archaeological wealth possessed by the Banaskantha district, but, which lay hidden till recently.

The work of preparing such authentic volumes like the Gazetteers, which have been recognised as a treasure of information on a variety of subjects, is an arduous task and requires great patience aptitude and experience on the part of those associated with this great task. Sarvashri M. R. Trivedi, (Dr.) A. P. Bhatt, R. R. Trivedi, C. A. Thakkar and C. C. Trivedi, Research Officers did commendable work for preparing this volume. Dr. Bhatt drafted the section on medieval and modern periods of history of the district.

It must also be said that Research Assistants S/Shri D. H. Acharya, B. A. Patel, N. D. Bhatt, Y. D. Jadeja, S. S. Shah, B. K. Soni, Smt. N. N. Parikh, (She has since resigned), Shri J. R. Shah, and



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Shri R. D. Gandhi did the job equally well. The Junior Assistants S/Shri P. B. Parikh, and K. T. Trivedi, (Kum.) K. S. Suryavanshi, S/Shri S. S. Bhonsle, G. N. Solanki, K. H. Arab and B. J. Patel also helped the Officers and Assistants in compilation as well as proof reading. The typing unit was in charge of Shri P. Bhaskaran, Stenographer and comprised Smt. S. M. Saiyad, Shri K. B. Soni and other typists. Shri K. N. Zala, Junior Assistant, R. H. Patel and B. M. James, Clerks placed in office establishment work did their job well.

I am indeed grateful to Dr. P. N. Chopra, Editor, Central Gazetteers Unit, Ministry of Education (Department of Culture) and his staff for thorough scrutiny and making valuable suggestions for improving the draft. These have been considered and changes made in the Gazetteer wherever necessary.

I am also thankful to the Director, Government Printing and Stationery, Ahmadabad and to the Manager, Government Press, Rajkot as well as his staff for elegant printing of the volume.

Ahmadabad:
July 3, 1981.

U. M. CHOKSHI,
I/c. Chief Editor.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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1. Shri K. S. Lavkumar Khachar, for writing the section on 'Birds and Wild Animals'.

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3. Shri N. S. Yagnik, Principal, Arts & Commerce College, Palanpur for drafting general frame work of the section on Culture of the Chapter on "Education and Culture".

4. Dr. R. T. Parikh, Professor of Museology. Faculty of Fine Arts, M. S. University of Vadodara for writing on Banaskantha Archaeology.



U. M. CHOKSHI,
I/c Chief Editor.



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PART I

CHAPTER I

GENERAL

Introductory

ORIGIN OF THE NAME OF THE DISTRICT

The district takes its name from the river Banas which flows through the district. The Banaskantha district as its name indicates consists of the territories situated on and around the river Banas. It was composed in the year 1948, of a part of the old Banaskantha Agency and the merged States of Palanpur, Radhanpur, Danta, Tharad, Vav, Deodar and Thara Jagirs and old Agency Thana of Suigam. The State of Danta formed part of old Mahikantha Agency. The States of Palanpur and Danta were included in Rajputana Agency subsequently.

The headquarters of the district is at Palanpur, which was the first class princely State of the same name.

LOCATION

The Banaskantha district lies between 23° 35' to 24° 43', north latitudes and 71° 0' to 73° 0' east longitudes on the banks of the Banas river¹. The district is in the north-western part of the Gujarat State. In the north it is bounded by Marwar and Sirohi area of the Rajasthan State, in the south by the Mahesana district, in the east by a part of Sirohi and Sabarkantha district and in the west by the Rann of Kachchh, which forms the frontier with Pakistan. From the view point of length, the district measures about 112 km., from north to south, and in respect of breadth it measures 192 km., from east to west. The shape of the district resembles a gun with a small barrel.

AREA AND POPULATION

The total area of the district is 12,702 sq. km., which constitutes 6.5 per cent of the total area of the State. From the view point of area the district is the third largest in the State. According to 1971 Census, the population of the district is 12,65,383 constituting about 4.7 per cent of the total population of the State. From the view point

1. Census of India 1961, Banaskantha District, p. 3.
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of population the district is ranked 11th in the State. The percentage of the urban population to the total population of the district is as low as 9.45 per cent as against 28.08 per cent of the State. Palanpur comes first in respect of population and has a population of 42,114 persons¹.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

In inscriptions and literature we come across references to places in this district especially in the Chaulukya (Solanki) period (942-1303 A.D.). However, like other parts of Gujarat this district, too, was probably under the rule of the Mauryas, Indo-Greek, Western Kshatrapa, Gupta, Maitraka and Chavada dynasties prior to the Solanki period. During the Rajput period it was under the sway of different Rajput dynasties. Thereafter it came under the Sultans of Ahmadabad. It then passed on to Mughal Emperors, the Marathas and lastly to the British.

The present district of Banaskantha consists of parts of two former first class princely States of Palanpur and Radhanpur and the other former Indian States, Estates and Thanas of (1) Tharad, (2) Morwada, (3) Vav, (4) Danta, (5) Deodar, (6) Varahi, (7) Tervada, (8) Suigam, (9) Santalpur, (10) Bhabhar and (11) Chadchat. The Kankrej petty States remained under Mahikantha Agency till 1844 A.D. when they were transferred to the Palanpur.

The Palanpur Agency was established in 1817 which consisted of two first class States of Palanpur and Radhanpur and other States and Estates. Later on it was renamed as the Banaskantha Agency. Thereafter Sabarkantha Agency was a new group comprising the States and talukas in the old Banaskantha Agency and those in the Mahikantha Agency. However, Palanpur and Danta were not included in this Agency.

Prior to Independence, of the above mentioned States 10 were jurisdictional and Radhanpur was the salute State and was in direct relations with the Agent to the Governor General.

The petty non-jurisdictional Giras holders were grouped under Thanas which were four, viz., Santalpur, Deodar, Kankrej and Varahi, the affairs of which were managed by Thanadars who exercised the

1. Census of India 1971, *Administrative Atlas*, p. 46.



CHAPTER I—GENERAL

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powers of a Second Class Magistrate. The rule of primogeniture in regard to succession was followed by the majority of the States and the Sanad of adoption was held by the State of Radhanpur only¹.

It may be pointed out that Radhanpur and Santalpur talukas of Mahesana district were added to this district from 1st May, 1958.

The former Palanpur State was a princely salute State. In the 14th century, it was ruled by Palansi Chauhans. Early in the 14th century, the Chauhans were displaced by Musalman rulers of Jhalor family who continued to rule till Independence.

It can be said that the administration of the Palanpur State during the last century had passed through three different phases. In the first period which commenced from the time of Captain Miles to the time of Colonel Shortt (1817 to 1874 A.D.) that is during the regime of Fateh Khan and Jorawar Khan, the British Government exercised a minute control over the finances. The different charges, expenditure of the ruler, etc., were fixed and no extra disbursements of heavy amounts were admitted without their special sanction, the revenue being assigned to the State Banker under engagements secured by the company's guarantee. The Political Superintendent had to furnish yearly accounts of revenue and was, as far as in his power, answerable for its proper collection and appropriation so that a greater degree of interference in its internal affairs was exercised than in other native States not so circumstanced. The Gaekwad Vakil was appointed by the Gaekwad to Assist Fateh Khan in his revenue accounts ; but this appointment was abolished by Government in 1848 A.D. The financial control lasted upto the time of Jorawar Khan (*i.e.*, 28-8-1873) and the financial supervision was withdrawn finally in August 1874. This gave an opportunity to the Ruler Nawab Sir Sher Mahomed Khan who came to the Gadi in 1877 to make the State as independent as other first class States. The second period commenced from the reign of the ruler Sher Mahomed Khan who had taken a personal interest in all important details. Nawabzada Taley Mahomed Khan, the last ruler divided the various departments into three branches, appointing thereto three secretaries, *viz.*, Judicial and Political, Revenue and Financial and this arrangement may be called the third phase in the history of Palanpur State. The Radhanpur State was put under

1. The Government of India, *The Ruling Princes, Chiefs and Leading Personages in Western India States Agency* (1935), p. 13.



British Administration in 1909-10 Mr. A. O. Koreshi, Deputy Collector of Colaba, took charge as Administrator on 1st July, 1909. In March, 1910 Mr. J. Monteath, I.C.S. was appointed as Administrator with Mr. Koreshi as Junior Administrator. However, in 1910 the administration was handed over to the Nawab¹. Of the other States, Danta was a second class State in rank and enjoyed the special privilege of having within its territory the famous shrine of the goddess "Amba Bhavani".

As a result of the integration of the Indian States and Estates in the year 1948, the States of Palanpur, Radhanpur, Danta, Tharad, and Vav, Thara Jagirs and the old Agency Thanas of Bhabhar, Deodar, Sihori, Varahi and Santalpur as well as Sub-Thana of Suigam merged into the district forming part of the then Bombay State. In November, 1956, the States were reorganised and the bigger bilingual State of Bombay was formed with Vidarbha, Marathawada, Saurashtra and Kachchh regions. The Banaskantha district alongwith the other districts of Ahmadabad Division formed part of the bigger bilingual State.

Lastly, the Bombay State was bifurcated on 1st May, 1960 and separate States of Gujarat and Maharashtra were formed. Since that date the Banaskantha district became a part of the Gujarat State.

TERRITORIAL CHANGES

This district was parcelled into States and Estates prior to Independence (1947). In 1948 it came into existence out of the former Indian States of Palanpur, Radhanpur, Vav, Tharad, Danta, etc., and other small Estates. Later on, Varahi and Santalpur Estates and Radhanpur taluka were transferred from Mahesana district to Banaskantha district. Abu district, Abu Road and Delwara tehsils of the former Sirohi State were added to this district.

In November, 1956, the States were reorganised and a bigger bilingual State of Bombay was formed with Vidarbha, Marathawada, Saurashtra and Kachchh regions. This re-organisation, however, affected the size of the Banaskantha district as Abu was transferred to the Rajasthan State². In 1958, Radhanpur taluka (minus 10 villages) and

1. MASTER F. S., *The Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. IV, Rajkot, (1919), pp. 32-33.
2. Under Bombay Government P and S Circular No. SRI-RCR-11456-T dated 12-10-1956.



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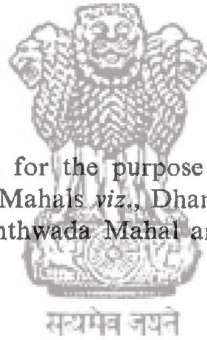
Santalpur taluka were transferred to this district.¹ It formed part of Gujarat State on its formation into a separate State on 1st May, 1960. The territorial changes which took place between the period 1951-61 are given in Annexure-I which is appended at the end of this chapter.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS²

As stated earlier, the district of Banaskantha was carved out of former Indian States of Palanpur, Radhanpur, Vav, Tharad, Danta and Estate areas of Varahi, Santalpur, Deodar, Sirohi and the sub-Thana of Suigam. After Independence, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel initiated a movement for integration of princely States and Estates. These States and Estates mentioned above were merged in the district in June, 1948.

The Palanpur State

Before the merger, for the purpose of the administration, the Palanpur State had four Mahals viz., Dhandhar Mahal, Deesa Mahal, Dhanera Mahal and Panthwada Mahal and 7 Thanas in all. There were 570 villages.



The Radhanpur State

Before, the merger the Radhanpur State had 159 villages which were apportioned into 5 Mahals known as Radhanpur, Sami, Mujpur, Balodhan, and Vaid.

The Tharad State

The Tharad State had 157 villages.

The Vav and Danta States

Before the merger the Vav had 27 State villages and 28 Bhayati villages and Danta had 187 villages.

1. Bombay Government Resolution R.P. No. T.L.C. 1254-R, dated 15-4-1958. Radhanpur taluka was transferred from Mahesana district to Banaskantha district.
2. Collector, Banaskantha District, Palanpur.



1981 -Banaskantha District Gazetteers Gujarat State (1317)

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DISTRICT GAZETTEER : BANASKANTHA

In 1973 the district was divided into 3 sub-divisions with 11 talukas. The details about towns, villages and population are given in the following Statement. 1.1

STATEMENT 1.1

Administrative Divisions as on 31st December, 1973

Sl. No.	Sub-Division Taluka/Mahal	Area (in sq. km.)	No. of Towns	No. of Villages	Population (1971 Census)		
					Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	<i>Palanpur Prant</i>						
	(1) Palanpur	1,471	2	177	2,28,944	1,81,555	47,389
	(2) Deesa	1,481	2	145	1,95,443	1,61,097	34,346
	(3) Vadgam	565	..	110	1,12,630	1,12,630	..
	(4) Danta	857	..	186	70,743	70,743	..
	(5) Dhanera	1,190	..	131	1,08,432	1,08,432	..
2.	<i>Radhanpur Prant</i>						
	(6) Radhanpur	596	1	54	63,572	45,212	18,360
	(7) Deodar	1,021	1	123	1,07,179	1,01,352	5,827
	(8) Kankeraj	822	..	105	1,16,468	1,16,468	..
	(9) Santalpur	1,352	..	74	55,652	50,346	5,306
3.	<i>Tharad Prant</i>						
	(10) Tharad	1,358	..	134	1,09,058	1,00,697	8,361
	(11) Vav	1,701	..	121	97,262	97,262	..
	Total	12,405	8	1,360	12,65,383	11,45,794	1,19,589

Source :

The Collector, Banaskantha District, Palanpur.

TOPOGRAPHY

*Physical Features*¹

Configuration : "As a whole the district is sandy plain with in some places, waving sandhills and between them valleys of black clay". The general appearance indicates that the district has roughly two main geographical divisions and the river Banas serves as a dividing line between the two. The eastern part of Dhanera taluka

1. (a) CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency, Cutch, Palanpur, and Mahikantha*, (1880), p. 281.
- (b) *District Census Handbook* 1961, Banaskantha District, p. 3.

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together with the north-eastern part of Palanpur taluka and the entire area of Danta and Vadgam talukas fit as a nice cap placed on the Aravalli range of mountains. To the north and north-east, there are hills and ranges of considerable height and size, which render the district extremely difficult for transport. The chief of these are Jesor (about 3,500 feet high) and Chiklodar Mata's hills near Amirgadh. The remaining region is a vast level plain but slightly wooded. Towards the north and south where it borders on Marwad and Jhinhuvada, there is scarcely a tree to be seen while along the entire eastern border nothing but a salt marsh meets the eye. From the view point of aspect the district is divided into following groups, viz., (1) Palanpur-Deesa (2) Vadgam (3) Radhanpur-Kankrej known as Vadhiar or Vridhi Panthak and (4) Tharad-Vav called Nani Marwad.

1. *Palanpur-Deesa*

Part of the Palanpur taluka is level plain and part of it is hilly. The town of Palanpur is hidden and commanded by a circle of hillocks. The southern and eastern portions are undulating and tolerably well wooded. Towards the north the country is mountainous. The villages are far apart and the hills afford excellent pasture. The Deesa taluka is level flat and desolate in parts.

2. *Vadgam*

The aspect of this area is hilly and mountainous in the eastern part. Its breadth is 32 km. from east to west and length is 25 km. from north to south.

3. *Radhanpur-Kankrej*

Originally Vridhikar or Vridhi Panthak, the land of grass or herds-men is bounded on the north by Radhanpur, on the east by Bahucharaji (in Mahesana district) on the south by Patadi (in Surendranagar district) and on the west by the Rann. Except for its hemlets, each with its group of trees, it is flat and barren in character much like the Rann. The Kankrej plain is flat, open and fairly wooded.

4. *Tharad, Vav and Deodur*

The land in Tharad though generally flat, is in part wavy, without trees of any size, but covered here and there with low brushwood.



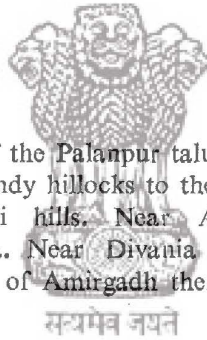
The area in Vav taluka is also flat, plain sandy except on the west where the soil is hard and clayey. Deodar taluka is also a flat sandy plain covered with low brushwood.

HILLS

It has been seen previously that some parts of the district are flat. However, some are mountainous and full of small hills and hillocks. The eastern part of the Dhanera taluka together with the north-eastern part of the Palanpur taluka and the entire area of Danta taluka and the eastern part of Vadgam taluka are hilly. The hills and hillocks spread in different parts are known by different names and cover a number of talukas of the district. They are now briefly examined below.

Palanpur Taluka

The eastern part of the Palanpur taluka is extremely hilly. The land rises in rows of sandy hillocks to the north and the east among outliers of the Aravalli hills. Near Amirgadh there are hills of Ishwania and Divania. Near Divania there is a hills of Kaleta. In the western direction of Amirgadh there are hills of Chotilo and Kapasia.



The following are other small hills, viz., (1) Rinchno Pahad, (2) Hathidarono Pahad, (3) Virampur Hills, (4) Golani Bhakhari (5) Thuwar, (6) Chhaniana, (7) Godh and (8) Balaram.

However, the most important mountain in this taluka is that of Jasor. It is about 18 miles (29 km.) north of Palanpur. It is a long hog-backed mountain and is 3,500 feet (1,066.80 metres) high. It is also known as Satpado as it contains 7 ranges. This mountain is known to have sheltered outlaws in the past. However, the water supply in it is scanty. It is well suited for a sanatorium and a hill station near the village Gangavada. There is another mountain called Ranitunk or Queen's Peak. It is at the western end of Surbhakhri hills. Near the mountain of Jasor and the outskirts of Amirgadh village there was an ancient town of Chandravati. Remnants of this town are even seen today. The famous lovers called Sadevant-Savlinga dwelt there.



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Vadgam Taluka

The eastern part of the Vadgam taluka is also hilly. It consists of mountains such as Dhundhalimal, Karmavat, Joina, Pandva, Mukeshwar, Rakolleshwar, Navovas, Raksheshwar and Tundano Pahad near Dhoripavdi. Of all these mountains the range of Aravalli hills in the eastern direction of Jalotra village deserves mention. The small hillocks of eminence in these range are called by the following names, viz., Guruno Bhankhro, Tundano Bhankhro, Doshino Bhankhro and Paniarino Bhankhro. The hilly ranges start from 3 miles (4.8 km.) away from Jalotra village. Of all these hills, Guruno Pahad is the highest and has the shape of a chandelier. On this hills is situated the cave of Dhundhalimal where the Guru stayed for 12 years for penance. People from this district and from the adjoining districts of Mahesana and Sabarkantha used to come in large number in the past and even at present to have a *Darshan* of Guru's idol. Guru was a resident of Patan in Mahesana district. He was a saint but temperamentally he was inflammable. He stayed in this cave. He had performed a number of miracles and had taken *Samadhi* in this hill. People even now have profound respect for him. Guru is propitiated to get progeny. Many people from far off places visit this place for the purpose of tonsorial ceremony. A fair is held on Maha Sud Panchmi when people of Banaskantha and other adjoining districts come to this hill. Even in summer there are brooks and green foliage. The place in this hill is called Paniari because of the availability of water throughout the year. The Brahmins of Siddhpur come to this hill in group (*Sangh*) on Vasant Panchmi day. In nearby village Mumanvas, a Dharamashala and a small temple of Mahadeva (Lord Shiv) have been constructed. There is also facility for staying in the Dhundhalimal cave. Another hill near Dhundhalimal is that of Rakeshwar. In the western direction of it is situated the hill of Karmavat. There is also a hill of Kudav about 2 miles (3.2 km.) from the village of Jalotra.

Danta Taluka

The Danta taluka is extremely mountainous and consists of a series of hills having varying degree of height. The important hills are Harivat, Kantvan, Ghodi Valo, Rakhepal, Dharso, Kirmal, Maneknath, Churmana, Gabbar, Menager, Bhadramal, Bhenso, Koteswar and Arasur.



Of all the hills the Arasur hill is well known and important. The Arasur hill is about 100 miles (160.9 km.) in length. It is a vast stretch of hills going right upto eastern territory of the Gujarat State¹. The hill according to some persons derives its name from the name Aras (marble) stone. However, the word *Aras* does not occur in Sanskrit language. A mythical legend suggests that Goddess Amba killed demon Mahisasur with a pointed weapon (Chakra) having 1,000 blades. In *Skandh Purana* the entire area including the mountain is called Arbudachal.

Gabbargadh—A part of the Arasur mountain is known as Gabbargadh. This mountain is famous because the original founder of Danta State established his capital here. The ruler Jasraj of that State got colossal wealth from this mountain. This mountain is popularly called Bhandarano Dungar. It is also said that Vimal Shah got immense wealth from this mountain. Some steps have been constructed to ascend the mountain². The other hills are described in the following order.

Harivat—Harivat is situated 5 miles (8 km.) away from the village Punjapar. There is a *dargah* of Amar Shah Pir which is worshipped by the people staying nearby.

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Maneknath—This hill is situated near the village Rangpur and is at a distance of 30 km., from Danta. The temple of Maneknath Mahadev is famous in this region.

Bhadramal—This hill is located near the village Kuvarsi and is 3-4 miles (5 to 6.5 km.) away from Danta.

Menagar—The Menagar mountain is situated near the Koteswar. A part of the mountain is also located in the State of Rajasthan.

In addition to the hills mentioned above, the hills of Kalvan and Samiya are also found in this taluka. On the hill of Kalvan (near Gadh) there are Jain temples.

1. TRIVEDI A.B., *Post-War Gujarat*, 1941, p. 1.

2. DAVE K. B., *Ambika, Koteswar Ane Kumbharia*, (1963), Baroda, p. 104.



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Dhanera Taluka

In Dhanera taluka there are number of small hills. Near Atal Mahudi, there is a hill of Pansval. The hills of Dantiwada and Ranitunk are also situated in this taluka. All these hills in the taluka are situated in the eastern direction. The hill of Ranitunk located in the taluka is in the western direction of Jasor.

Another taluka which contains small rocky hills continuously running in the western direction from the middle of the taluka is Santalpur.

RIVER SYSTEM AND WATER RESOURCES

The district is situated in the north-western part of the Gujarat State. Most of the rivers in this district originate in the Abu and Aravalli hills. These rivers are entirely dependent on monsoon and dry up in the hot weather. Some of the rivers enter the Rann of Kutch (Kachchh). Following are the important rivers viz., the Banas, the Sipu, the Balaram, the Arjuni, the Saraswati, the Sabarmati, the Khari, the Khapra, the Kalari, the Gujudi, the Dholka, the Umardashi, the Chekaria, the Selvan, the Rel, and the Ravi.

A few rivers like the Banas and the Saraswati of the district, however, fall into the Little Rann of Kutch (Kachchh). The Banas and the Saraswati rivers flowing into the Little Rann and debouching from the spurs of the Aravallis pass through a semi-arid area and are dry for a greater part of the year. Even the Banas, the longest of them all, has very little water in its channel. The rivers have developed broad and shallow channels in their own sandy and gravelly deposits derived from the Aravallis. Descending from the hills and meeting a very negligible gradient in the zone, through which these rivers flow, they are left with no capacity to transport and hence deposit their load and swing laterally. The choking of the river courses with their alluvium during occasional floods, initiates a process of lateral cutting, which, continued with vigour for a short time, results in the widening and partial filling of their channels. The beds of these meandering streams covered with gravel and sand are sometimes several miles long while the streams occupy the small width of only a few yards.¹

1. DIXIT K. R. (DR.), *Geography of Gujarat*, New Delhi, (1970), pp. 24-25.



The Sabarmati River

The river Sabarmati rises from Aravalli hills in the Rajasthan State. It flows from the eastern border of the Danta taluka of the Banaskantha district. The river separates the Banaskantha and Sabarkantha districts. It passes by the following villages of Danta taluka, viz., Umedpura, Jorapura, Ghantodi, Jitpur, Navaniya, Magvas, Bhanpur, Kukdi, Rayaniya, Dhrangivas and Kodarvi (Ranpur). Thereafter the river enters the Sabarkantha district.

The Siri Nala

The river Siri Nala is a tributary of the river Sabarmati. It originates near Ranpur village of Danta taluka. It flows in the Danta taluka only. The villages traversed by the river are Maskvang, Hirad, Tornik, Santpur, Mandali, Kuvasi, Taluti and Umbri. It flows in the eastern direction of the district.

After flowing for 22 km. in this district it merges in the river Sabarmati near village Mandali of the Danta taluka. Its catchment area is 242 sq. km.

The Arjuni River

The river Arjuni which is considered holy by the Hindus, is a large river that rises in the Ambaji hills of Danta taluka and becomes Saraswati after its confluence with the Saraswati.

The Arjuni originates near village Dhareda in Danta taluka and flows past 2 talukas in the district, viz., Danta and Vadgam. In the Danta taluka, it flows past Siyavada, Vasi, Pethapur, Ganchhera, Karanpur, Harigadh, Bamania and Nagel villages.

Thereafter it enters the Vadgam taluka and traverses the villages of Andharia and Moria. The river has a total length of 42 km., and it merges with the river Saraswati near village Nagel of the Danta taluka.

The river flows from the north-east direction to south-east direction in the district.



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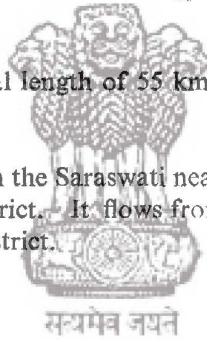
The Saraswati river passes by Siddhpur and Patan talukas of Mahesana district and enters into the Rann of Kachchh. Approaching the Rann of Kachchh, the river then spreads out and broadens considerably. The river brings great volume of water, but it goes dry after March.

The Umardasi (or Amardasi) River

The Umardasi river is also known as Amardasi in the district. It is also a tributary of the Saraswati river. It originates from the hills near village Ghod of the Palanpur taluka. In this taluka it flows past Dhandha, Vasan, Nalasar, Sambarda, Ratanpur, Lalavada, Vagda, Jagana, Sedrasan and Kanodar. Subsequently it enters the Vadgam taluka and traverses the villages of Malosana, Majadar, Changa, Bharkavada, Meta and Pirojpura. Then it enters the Mahesana district.

The river has a total length of 55 km., and it flows for 40 km., in this district.

The river merges with the Saraswati near village Hisor of Siddhpur taluka of Mahesana district. It flows from the north-east to south-west direction in the district.



The Saraswati River

The quest of lost Saraswati has been a subject of great fascination among geographers, historians, archeologists and others.

*The Saraswati in Legend and Literature*¹—In ancient literature the Saraswati retained its pre-eminence among the Vedic rivers and rivalled the Ganga in sanctity in the Epic period as it rivalled Indus in the Vedic period. On the Saraswati stood Prithudaka and along its bank stretched the Kamyaka forest, the resort of the Pandu princes during the period of their exile. The river Saraswati flowed past the battle-field of Kurukshetra and Thaneshwar. Probably not later than the middle of the second millennium B.C., it was a mighty stream which had its source in the Himalayas and flowed through the eastern Punjab (past the far-famed Kurukshetra of later ages) and ultimately found its way to the sea. However, it is not possible to trace such a

1. PANDYA AMRIT, *Lost Saraswati*, Vallabh Vidhyanagar (1967), pp. 46-50.



mighty river now in the eastern part of the modern Punjab. In its place there is an inconspicuous rivulet called the Sarasuti whose name recalls the Saraswati of olden times. This river flows by the sacred site of Kurukshetra. The land between the Saraswati on the north and the Drishadvati (which has been identified with the Rakshi) a stream running in south-westerly direction east of the Saraswati was the classical Brahmaghata. Under the name Ghaggar, the united stream passed through Patiala area, the Hissar district and Bikaner territory down to Bhawalpur and Sindh where the dry course was continued under the name 'Hakra'. Furthermore it may be observed that throughout the deltaic flats of the Indus may still be seen the old channels which once conducted its water into the Rann of Kachchh.

In Rig Veda the Saraswati is described as the chief and purest of rivers flowing from the mountain to the ocean. In this Veda the seven sister streams are distinguished from the Saraswati. The Saraswati is styled as *ambitama* and *naditama* best of the mothers and best of the rivers. The story of the gradual decay of the once mighty stream is written largely in the post-Rig Vedic literature. It is possible that by the time of Vajasyani Samhita, the Saraswati had for most part of the year ceased to be a continuous stream. The very name Saraswati "abounding in pools or lakes" suggests that from the beginning certain portions of its course looked like lakes (Saras). These lakes became very prominent in the period represented by the Brahmanas and Epics. (550 + X.B.C. to 500 A.D.). The Mahabharata refers to 5 lakes at Samanata Panchaka where the great battle between the Kurus and the Pandavas is said to have been fought. At this point the Saraswati was particularly noted for its sanctity. One of the most interesting lakes associated with Saraswati was the Dvaitavanam Saras mentioned in the *Satapatha Brahmana* (550 + X.B.C.) as well as in the great Epic. In the period of great Epic south bank of Saraswati in a part of Kurukshetra area was described as *anirina* (not Arid).

Three Forms of Saraswati—We have seen that Saraswati has been eulogised in the Vedas and has been described as a separate river. However, three forms of Saraswati river are known. One Saraswati river started from the mountain of Kashmir and disappeared in the desert of Patiala. The second Saraswati river emanated in Gujarat at Koteshwar and disappeared in the Rann of Kachchh. Lastly, the third Saraswati river originated from the Gir forest and met the sea at the confluence of 3 rivers near Prabhas Patan from where Lord



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Krishna left this mortal world. The river Saraswati and the important shrines located on its bank have been described more or less in all the Puranas. Some of the Puranas, however, believe these three Saraswati rivers as one river.

The Saraswati river in the Banaskantha district originates from the mountain near Koteshwar, to be more specific from the mountain of Menagar and finally disappears in the Rann of Kachchh. The river is called virgin (Kumarika) because it does not meet the sea. The river is considered extremely sacred. This river of Banaskantha district is not Vedic Saraswati, because Vedic Saraswati is not called a virgin river. In his book "*Khambhatno-Itihas*", Shri Ratnamanirao Jote has stated that the river originated from Himalaya mountain and after traversing the Arbuda mountain met the Gulf of Khambhat (Cambay).

The mouth of the Gulf of Khambhat (Cambay) itself is the estuary of Saraswati river. In Puranas it is stated that the Saraswati river flowed towards the Gulf of Khambhat (Cambay) as it wanted to immerse Vadvanal in the sea. This is perhaps an allusion to volcanic eruption or earthquake on account of which the flow of Saraswati must have disappeared from Rajasthan. In other words this event has been personified in the form of Vadvanal. In all probability perhaps the present Saraswati might have been the part of original Saraswati. It is also interesting to note that the shrines which appear on the banks of Sabarmati and Saraswati are the same and therefore one is led to conjecture that both the rivers must have been running as a joint stream.

The river Saraswati issues near the village Kanbiavas of the Danta taluka. In the district it flows past Danta and Vadgam talukas. In the Danta taluka it flows past Kanbiavas, Panudara, Vadvara, Gangva, Thana, Paniyari, Toda, Bhankhari, and Vasi villages.

Thereafter it enters the Vadgam taluka and traverses Nizampur, Tejpura, Badarpur, Mepda, Mengal, Nagana, Paldi, Thalvada, Pilucha and Juni Nagri villages.

The river has a total length of 161 km., but it flows only for 52 km., in this district and enters the Mahesana district. Its catchment area is 2,473 sq. km., It flows from north-east to south-west direction.



The annual average flow of water at gauge site of Bhankhari village was 3,935 million cubic feet, while at the time of flood the velocity of water per second was 9.87 feet. It was proposed to build a dam on this river at Bhankhari village but the project was given up as it involved submersion of fertile land of Vadgam taluka.

The Banas River

The Banas is one of the most important rivers of the district. It was also called Parnasha in the past. It rises in the Dhebar lake among the Udepur hills in the Rajasthan State and flows westwards in the Banaskantha district past the flourishing town of Deesa and enters into the Rann of Kachchh by two mouths near Gokhatar in Santalpur taluka and Agichana village in Radhanpur taluka of the district. The chief tributaries of the Banas are the Sipu and the Balaram. The Sipu rises in the east of Nimaj hills in the Sirohi district of Rajasthan State and joins the Banas near Bhadath and Chhota-Ranpurvas in Deesa taluka.

The Balaram rises in the hills on the north-east border of the district and flowing by the shrine of Balaram, from where it takes its name, joins the Banas near Karja in Palanpur taluka. There are no tides in the Banas and its stream is too shallow for boat traffic. The bed near Deesa is being utilised for potato cultivation on a very large scale.

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Direction of the Flow—Entering Palanpur taluka, to the north-east of Sarotra it passes for about 19.31 km., through thick forest and for about 12.87 km., more has rocky banks and a rocky bed. West of this, both banks and bed are sandy, and during hot weather the stream ceases to flow. Towards Abu its channel is 294.36 metres wide, 9.6 km., above Deesa 1.6 km., and at Deesa 640 metres and at Radhanpur 365.76 metres. At Deesa, and a few km., above and below it is a running stream all the year round. Floods in the Banas often bring down a very great volume of water. Except when in flood, the Banas may almost everywhere be forded. The Banas frequently overtops its banks during the monsoon. Afterwards it enters the semi-arid zone of Banas valley.

Semi-arid Plain of Banas-Saraswati Rivers—The semi-arid plain includes the Banas-Saraswati doab extending as far as Radhanpur. This is a sandy area which degenerates westwards into saline soil near



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Little Rann. Highly susceptible to mechanical erosion and characterized by soft sandy loam or sandy soil, the land in this part is subjected to the occasional vagaries of the Banas and its tributaries which have cut wide and shallow valleys. In summer these rivers are emaciated and appear like threads of water. The rivers in themselves are not a very important source of water, though their valleys are favoured sites for tapping underground water.¹

Course of the River—The Banas flows in the Palanpur, Dhanera, Deesa, Kankrej, Radhanpur and Santalpur talukas in the district. In the Palanpur taluka it flows past Aval, Amirgadh, Juni Roh, Kidotar, Lakhmipura, Baludra, Umarkot, Chekhla and Ranavas villages. In the Dhanera taluka it passes by the Vadvas, Jorapura, Dantiwada, Godh, Sikariya and Mandotra Brahmanvas villages. Thereafter in Deesa taluka it traverses near villages of Vasda, Rampur-Athamnavas, Rampur-Ugamnavas, Akhol Moti and Nani, Rajpur, Deesa and Juna Deesa and Bodal. In the Kankrej taluka it flows near Arnivada Bukoli, Golia, Umbari, Kamboi, Shihori, Amblivas, Mangalpura, Vada, Thal, Nava, Shiya, Valpura, Totana, and Meta Jampur villages. Thereafter the river enters the Radhanpur taluka and traverses the villages of Kamalpur, Meghapura, Sabdalpura, Amirpura, Najupura, Dholakda and Delana. Lastly the river enters the Santalpur taluka and flows past Gadsai and Amarpur villages.

Out of its total length of 258 km., the river flows for 142 km., in the Banaskantha district. The river disappears into the Little Rann of Kachchh near village Gadsai of Santalpur taluka. In this district the river flows from north-east to south-west direction. This river is not a tidal river.

At Deesa, which is a gauge site of the river the annual average flow in million cubic feet of water is 18,962 while the velocity of water at the time of flood per second is 11.48 feet.

The dam has been constructed on the Banas near Dantiwada about 25 km., away from Palanpur and forms the core of Dantiwada Irrigation Project. This project provides for irrigation facilities in the Palanpur, Deesa, Kankrej and Dhanera talukas of this district and Patan and Siddhpur talukas of Mahesana district. Dantiwada dam is a small step in the direction of preventing damage from floods and makes the maximum use of the precious water of the river for irrigation.

1. DIXIT K. R. (DR.), *Geography of Gujarat*, New Delhi, (1970), p. 213.
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The bed of the river is utilised for potato cultivation. The cultivation starts from Sihori in southern direction. Thereafter proceeding in north-east direction, the potato cultivation is carried on extensively at Deesa and also upto Dantiwada. From Dantiwada to Deri the potato cultivation decreases, but its place is taken by other vegetables such as tomatoes, water melons, etc. The Deesa bed of the river is, however, famous for potato cultivation. The cultivation is done on co-operative farming basis. Approximately more than Rs. 30 lakhs are spent after manures and labour charges. The seeds of Italian and Simla varieties are used in potato cultivation. Daily 20 wagons are loaded from Deesa beginning from the month of April and ending in the second week of June. The rest of the produce is transported by means of camels to other places. The natural scenery which the river affords while descending from the mountains is also undescrivable.¹

The Balaram Nala

The Balaram Nala is a tributary of the river Banas. The river originates near village Kanpur of Palanpur taluka. In this taluka it flows past Rajpur, Karja and Hasanpur villages.

After flowing 32 km., in this taluka only, the river meets the Banas river near Karja village. The total catchment area of this river is 335 sq. km., At Malpur, which is a gauge site of this river the annual average flow in million cubic feet of water is 2861, while the velocity of water at the time of flood per second is 13.12 feet.

The Khopra River

The Khopra is a tributary of Balaram Nala which in turn is a tributary of the Banas River. It originates near village Hathidara of Palanpur taluka. It flows past Hathidara, Pendagara and Hasanpur villages of Palanpur taluka.

Its total length is 15 km., and it meets the river Balaram near village Hasanpur.

1. 'Kumar', March 1952 (Prof. Ramprasad Shukla), An article entitled "Uttar Gujarati Annapurna Payaswini Parnasha Banasnadi".



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The Kalari Nala

The Kalari Nala (rivulet) is a tributary of the Banas river. It originates in the Rajasthan State. In this district it flows for 20 km., in Palanpur taluka and traverses the villages of Gadara, Dabhela, Dabheli, and Kidotar. It meets the river Banas near Kidotar village.

The Gujudi Nala

The Gujudi Nala is also a tributary of the Banas and originates in the Rajasthan State. In the Palanpur taluka it flows past Rabaria and Dablieli villages. After a course of 16 km., it merges in the Kalari Nala near village Dabdar in Palanpur taluka.

The Sipu River

The Sipu river is a tributary of the river Banas. It originates in the Rajasthan State and it flows in two talukas of this district, viz., Dhanera and Deesa. In the Dhanera taluka it flows past Zat, Bhadli (Zat), Kotda (Jagol), Mahudi (Nani), Ganodra, Atal and Bhakodar villages. Thereafter it enters the Deesa taluka and traverses near the villages of Sodapur, Meda, Kotha, Bhadath and Chatrala. The total length of the river is 42 km., and it flows for 32 km., in this district. Its total catchment area is 1,396 sq. km.,

The river flows from north-east to south-west direction in this district. At Bhakodar, which is a Gauge site of this river, the annual average flow in million cubic feet of water is 7,189, while the velocity of water at the time of flood per second is 15.97 feet.

The Dholka River

The Dholka is a tributary of the river Sipu, which itself is a tributary of the river Banas. It rises near the village Amodra of Palanpur taluka. Then it enters the Dhanera taluka and traverses near Odhva and Kotda villages. The total length of this river is 27 km., and it merges with the river Sipu near village Ganodra of the Dhanera taluka.

1. 'Kumar' is March 1952 (Prof. Ramprasad Shukla), An article entitled "Uttar Gujaratni Annapurna Payaswini Parnasha Banasnadi".



The Khari River

The Khari is a tributary of the Banas river. It issues from the Palanpur taluka and traverses the villages of Khasa and Sasam. Thereafter it enters the Kankrej taluka and flows near Devpura and Sudrosan villages. The river after a course of 16 km., merges in the river Banas near village Sudrosan of the Kankrej taluka.

The Chekaria River

The Chekaria is a small sub-tributary of the Khari river, which itself is a tributary of the river Banas. Chekaria originates near the village Chandisar in Palanpur taluka and flows past Mota, Sundha, Samdhi (Motavas) villages.

Its total length is 52 km., and it flows for only 15 km., in this district.

The Selvan River

The Selvan, a tributary of Banas, originates near village Pancha of Danta taluka. In this taluka it flows past Kumbharia, Ambaji, Koteswar, and Bedapani.

Out of its total length of 23 km., the river flows for only 10 km., in this district. It merges in the river Banas in the Rajasthan State.

The Rel River

The Rel originates in the Rajasthan State and enters in the district in the Dhanera taluka. Here it flows past Bapla, Kundi, Mandal, Vasda, Anapurgadh, Mevada, Sera and Dhanera villages.

Out of its total length of 55 km., It flows for 32 km., in this district. It disappears near village Dhanera.

The Ravi River

The Ravi river is a tributary of river Rel. It originates in the Rajasthan State. It enters the district in Dhanera taluka. In this taluka it flows past Marvada, Ravi, Alvada, Rajoda and Mevada



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villages. Out of its total length of 29 km., it flows for 22 km., in the district. It merges with the river Rel near Morvada village of Dhanera taluka.

LAKES

In the district, there are very few lakes. Among the lakes, the Gangasagar is one which is an important lake.

The old Gazetteer states that “The district contains no natural lakes, but especially Radhanpur has many ponds. Close to the hills, the water is very near the surface, but gradually sinks in the sandy western plains. In Palanpur, the depth varies from forty to fifty feet, while in some parts of Tharad, it is as much as 120. Within last few years, the water level is said to have sunk to twice its former depth. Towards the Rann, the water is specially scarce and brackish and in this part of the district, a scanty rainfall causes the greatest hardship”¹.

It would thus be observed that district is deficient in respect of sources of water. In respect of lakes mention must be made of Gangasagar lake which is situated at a distance of 5 km. from village Jethi of Palanpur taluka. Its water is used for irrigating surrounding lands. In the same taluka, there is another lake near Chitrasani called ‘Mansarovar’. The water in this lake is drawn through a canal from a nearby river. The Dantiwada lake constructed on account of Dantiwada Dam is the most prominent one in the district. The lands of the district are irrigated through various canals from the lake. The tube-wells and *kachcha* wells mainly form important source of water in rural area².

GEOLOGY³

The following rock formations, arranged in descending order of their antiquity, are met with in the Banaskantha district :

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha*, Bombay, (1879), pp. 283-284.
2. For details refer Chapter IV—Agriculture and Irrigation.
- 3 The Director, Geological Survey of India, Ahmadabad.



Limestone, clays, sandstone..Manchar Series..Miocene and conglomerate.	}	Tertiary
Limestone and calcareous..Ranikot-Laki.... Eocene		
Sandstone Kirthar Series		
.....Unconformity.....		
Limestone, Marl & Shale..Patchham Series..Jurassic..Mesozoic.....Uncomformity.....		

Granites : Porphyritic and non-porphyritic varieties..Eranpura
and associated pegmatite and quartz vein.

Metabasites : Altered ultra basic rocks, pyroxene granulites and
hornblende schist.

Metasediments : Marble, phyllite..Ajabgarh..Delhi..Precam-
brian mica schist, quartz-schist & quartzite.

The major portion of the district is covered by a wide stretch of desert sand. The rocks are exposed mainly in the eastern part of the district. Scattered outcrops of rocks are found near the border of district adjoining Kachchh. The chief rock types of the district are largely calcareous and argillaceous metasediments belonging to Ajabgarh formation, alongwith arenaceous metasediments. They are well developed at Ambaji, Jariba and Bedaka. Pani, constituting a part of the south western extremity of the Delhi synclinerium. The metasediments belonging to Ajabgarh formation have been subjected to two distinct stages of folding episodes. The axis of the first stage of folding trend NNE-SSW, while the axis of superimposed fold trend NW-SE to E-W. Large bodies of intrusive granite are exposed along the fold axis.

DELHI GROUP

Calcareous Metasediments

They are represented by marble and calc-gneiss. Marble is well bedded, dark grey in colour with a smooth weathered surface when pure, and light gray with ribbed surface when impure. Impure marble is usually siliceous with alternate bands of calcic and siliceous material. White greenish marbles are exposed near Jariba and Kokhril.



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Argillaceous Metasediments

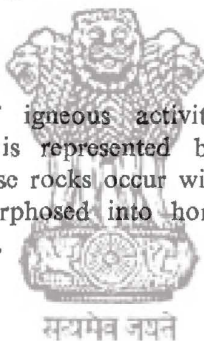
They are represented by phyllite and mica-schist and occur in the intervening valleys between the limestone ridges. There are two horizons of this ; one intervening the lower and upper calcareous horizon and the other succeeding the upper calcareous horizon.

Arenaceous Metasediments

They are represented by quartzite, quartz-sericite schist and biotite-quartz schist. Lenticular caught up patches of arenaceous metasediments occurring within the paragneisses suggest that these metasediments are granitised and at places to migmatites and paragneisses. Quartzite grades to mica-quartz schist, with the increasing contents of mica.

Metabasites

The first phase of igneous activity after the deposition of Ajabgarh sediments is represented by basic igneous rocks. Concordant bodies of these rocks occur within the Ajabgarhs. At places there are metamorphosed into hornblende schist, pyroxene granulite and talc schist.



Igneous Rocks

Gabbroic rocks occur as plutonic intrusions into the Delhi metasediments and associated pyroxene granulites. Petrological studies reveal the presence of olivine gabbro, troctolite gabbro, norite and anorthosite. The pyroxene granulites bear a resemblance with basic charnockite so far as mineral composition is concerned. In the gabbro-anorthosite suite, the minerals present are labradorite (An 60-70), olivine, augite, hypersthene, bornzite and biotite. The anorthosite which can be identified in the field, appears to have been derived from the gabbro by crystallisation and fractionation.

Granites

The metasediments belonging to Ajabgarh formation have been intruded by a suite of granites which are thought to be equivalent to Eranpura granite. The main varieties of granites are ; (1) grey granite, coarse grained having texture varying from gneissose



to porphyritic, (2) pink aplitic granite. fine to medium grained and (3) pink coarse grained granite. Besides the granites, there are numerous pegmatites and aplites which have intruded the calcareous suite of rocks, biotite schist and basic rocks. The injections of pegmatitic material into the metasediments have given rise to injection gneisses.

Mesozoic and Tertiary Formations

A few scattered outcrops of Mesozoic and Tertiary formations comprising clays, shale, sandstone and limestone occur at the eastern border of the district.

Useful Minerals and Rocks

Some important economic minerals occur in the district in the pre-cambrian rocks. Workable base metal deposits occur in the district at Ambaji. Besides, the district is endowed with good deposits of limestone, marble and wollastonite. The salient features of these deposits are given below :

Base metal Deposit

Copper-lead-zinc deposits are located near the Ambaji village. These metals today are of great importance. These deposits had been worked some centuries back and the extensive slag heaps and dumps spread at and near Ambaji indicate that the mining and metallurgical industry was of a appreciable magnitude. The souvenir of Indian Science Congress states that "existence of ancient copper workings in Biotite schists have also been reported from Ambaji". Detailed drilling work was carried out by the Geological Survey of India—since 1866. An approximate reserve of 6.5 million tonnes of multi-mineral ore with an average of 13.46 percent metal content (lead 5.5 per cent., zinc 6 per cent. and copper nearly 2 per cent.) has been estimated recently. The area has been reserved by the Government to exploit the base metals in public sector and the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation is already engaged in the development of base metal. This deposit extends over a strike length of about 2 km., in a north-westerly direction from the outskirts of Ambaji village. The rocks exposed in the Ambaji area consist of an intercalated sequence of talc-biotite schist, biotite quartz schist and quartzite. Mineralisation is mainly confined to the talc-schist group of rocks. Ore minerals in the order of abundance are sphalerite,



galena, chalcopyrite, pyrite and pyrrhotite.

Five mineralised zones have been demarcated in the area. These zones contain numerous parallel to sub-parallel lodes of varying dimensions. Individual lodes are elongated lensoid bodies. Many of them are quite massive sulphide bodies, at places branching off in to several thinner shoots both along the strike and dip directions.

Apart from these three major metals, other metals like cadmium, silver, molybdenum, cobalt and nickel are also present in minor quantities, which can be recovered as valuable by-products.

Building Material

During the ex-Palanpur State regime, the services of Dr. Dessau, an Italian Geologist who was in Jaipur and who was then the Deputy Director of Geology to the Government of India, were requisitioned. He carried out a survey which showed that limestone of good quality was available in the Palanpur territory and that it was suitable for the manufacture of cement. Further investigation of the mineral resources was done by Sir Cyril Fox, late Director, Geological Survey of India. According to him Palanpur possessed the best quality of limestone in Rajputana (Rajasthan) and western India, not dolomite but pure limestone, a quality suitable for chemical purposes and apparently in attractive quality.

There are very large limestone strata both over and under the surface. Mountain limestone is found practically at all places and has been certified by experts as suitable for cement and allied industries. Granite of good quality is also found, but as it is not easily accessible by roads it is not yet quarried. Coarse marble is found at Pansval, Dabhela, Rampura and Juni Vavdi.

Limestone

There are four limestone bands occurring in the Banaskantha district. Out of these four beds, nearly half portion of the band located north-north-east of village Dother falls in Sabar-kantha district. The band has been divided into four blocks. The south-western two blocks viz., A and B which fall in the Banaskantha district have yielded reserves of limestoe of the order of 39.62 million tonnes upto a depth of 20 metres with average 49.84%CaO, 0.91%



Mgo and 7.99% of insolubles. Of the 39.62 million tonnes of the total reserves of limestone, about 11.63 million tonnes are of high grade having average of 50.30%CaO, 0.70%Mgo and 6.33% of insolubles.

The second band of limestone is exposed to NW of the band described above. It has a strike length of about 2.5 km., and covers an area of 1.495 sq. km. The reserves inferred up to a depth of 30 metres are of the order of 8.080 million tonnes. The average percentage of CaO, MgO and insolubles calculated from the limited number of samples are 49.86%, 1.23% and 5.48% respectively.

The third band in the district occurs at about 1.5 km., north of village Mandali and strikes over a distance of 2.2 km. The limestone is exposed over an area of 0.24 sq. km. An inferred reserve of 19.4 million tonnes upto a depth of 30 metres have been estimated. Chemical analysis of a sample collected from the area has indicated 43.93% CaO, 1.37% MgO and 16.75% insolubles.

The fourth band of limestone covering an area of 0.6 km. is exposed to the west of village Kandhora. The limestone band occurs along the southern bank of the tank. The total strike length of the limestone band is 0.8 km. with an average width of 60 metres. The limestone is thin bedded and has been used in some buildings at Danta. An inferred reserves upto a depth of 30 metres are of the order of 4.86 million tonnes. Chemical analysis of two samples collected from the area shows 50.67 % CaO, 1.20% MgO and 5.27% insolubles.

Marble

Marble occurs in small bands extending in a N.W.S.E. direction near Jariba and Khokhribil. The rock is white to greenish in colour, medium to coarse grained and is being quarried near Jariba, Koteswar and Khokhribil areas. In Jariba area, a probable reserves of the order of 45 million tonnes have been estimated.

White Saccharoidal marble occurs in abundance at Ambaji in Banaskantha. White marble is also available from several places including Kumbharia. The Kumbharia area near Ambaji has one of the best sites of marble both white and green and is considered better than Makran marble for carving.



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The Directorate of Geology and Mining, Gujarat State has carried out preliminary survey work for marble near Ambaji during the field season of 1965-66. It had further taken up detailed investigation to locate areas of marble in Ambaji during the field season 1972-73. The estimated reserve of Ambaji marble is 1.6 million tonnes.

Wollastonite

This mineral is used in the manufacture of ceramics, plastics, arc welding, refractories and as filler in the manufacture of paint, rubber and paper. A small deposit of this mineral occurs at Ghoda village of Danta taluka in the district. Wollastonite occur in the form of criss-cross veins or elongated lenses, parallel to the foliation. The mineral assemblage in the veins and lenses in their order of abundance include wollastonite, hornblende, felspar, calcite and beryl. The blades of the wollastonite are upto 0.50 metres while the beryl crystal upto 6 cms., length are also available.

*Mica*¹—Muscovite in inferior grade has been recovered from Danta. The occurrences contain very small flakes of mica which have no economic value.

Calcite—There are reported occurrences of calcite mineral in Pith Jitpur, Ghantodi area of Danta taluka of the district.

Felspar—Felspar is found in the district at Bundh near Shri Amirgadh, Badi and Deobara villages of Palanpur taluka. Its uses are as follows :

(a) Ceramic-flux; Ceramic binder for abrasive wheels, e.g., carborundum, corundum emery, etc., ceramic glaze on pottery, sanitary ware, utensils, coating iron sheets.

(b) Coarse Powder ; Glass making constituents, source of potassium salts.

(c) Mild abrasive ; Sand paper for wood working, glass polishing.

(d) Other uses ; Acid resistance, catalysis, coal washing medium, decoration, etc.

1. *Geology and Mineral Resources of Gujarat and Saurashtra.*
An Article by S. S. Merh, Head of the Geology Department, M. S. University of Baroda in *Forty Second Session, Indian Science Congress, Souvenir, Baroda, (1955), pp. 214 to 227.*



OIL FIND IN BANASKANTHA DISTRICT¹

The Oil and Natural Gas Commission started exploratory drilling activities in Banaskantha district in June, 1969. Geophysical surveys conducted by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission have delineated many structures, out of which six structures have been explored till now. These structures are Tharad, Serau, Balutri, Delwada, Deodar and Varsada. So far no structure of the district has proved as oil bearing.

A short summary of the data on individual structure is given below :

Tharad

Tharad structure is a ENE-WSW trending anticline (located on the sub-surface of Tharad ridge) to the south of Sanchor syncline. The structure has about 20 metres of closure at a level within the Tharad group of sediments. One well was drilled on the crest of the anticline from June to November 1969. The well was drilled down to 2,093 metres. The formations encountered during drilling belonged to Post-Miocene, Miocene, Oligocene, Eocene, Supra-Trap-pear, Trap and Older Complex. After drilling through 500 metres of Trap about 50 metres of older sediments were also encountered.

The well proved to be dry and was abandoned.

Serau East

Serau east is a faulted anticlinal structure trending NE-SW (located on the sub-surface Serau ridge). The structure has a closure of about 35 metres at the top of Tharad group. Only one well Serau east—1 was drilled (on the crestal part of the anticlinal closure) down to 2,106 metres. This is the first well in the whole Cambay Basin which after penetrating through the entire sequence of the Tertiary sedimentaries, Deccan Trap and Mesozoic sedimentary section touched Granite Basement. The well was dry and now stands abandoned.

1. The Directorate of Geology, Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Tel Bhavan, Dehra Dun.



Balutri

Balutri is an anticlinal structure located at about 15 km., west of Serau east well No. 1.

Balutri well No. 1 was drilled on the crestal part of the structure. The well was drilled down to 832 metres. The Tertiary sediments are found directly resting over the Pre-Cambrian basement and the Deccan Trap is absent.

The well was dry and now stands abandoned.

Delvada

Delvada is a faulted anticlinal structure, north of the Banas river, on the eastern margin of the Paladi-Tharad sub-surface depression. The regional fault bounding this structure is having down throw towards NE. The structure has a closure of about 40 metres at the top of the Tharad group.

Delvada well No. 1 located on the crestal part of the structure was drilled down to 1,669 metres and was completed in Traps.

The well proved dry and now stands abandoned.

Deodar

The Deodar structure, located between the Paladi and Tharad depressions, is a faulted anticline with a closure of about 40 metres at the top of the Tharad group. The NW-SE trending fault bounding the structure has a downthrow towards NE.

Deodar well No. 1, located on the crestal part of the structure, was drilled down to 2,007 metres and completed in Granite basement.

The well proved dry and now stands abandoned.

Varsada

Varsada structure is located on the western shelf, adjacent to the east-west trending marginal fault. The Varsada structure is a fault closure located on the upthrown side of the western



marginal fault with a closure of about 50 metres at the Trap level.

The Varsada well No. 1 located on the crestal part of the structure was drilled down to 2,198 metres and completed in Traps.

The well proved dry and now stands abandoned.

Flora

FORESTS

The development and utilisation of forest resources is an integral part of the programme for optimum land utilization. Forest also provides food and shelter to precious fauna and gives recreational centres which are so much needed in this industrial hectic age. Forests have important protective as well as productive functions. They not only supply timber, fuel, fodder and variety of other products but also have a moderating influence against floods and erosion and help to maintain soil fertility. A number of industries, such as, construction, furniture, paper, rayon, plywood, matches, resin and tanning depend on forests for supply of raw materials. Development of forestry is also essential for raising the income of the tribal people. The four main functions of forests, so vital to economy are :

- (1) Conservation of water resources
- (2) Mitigation of floods
- (3) Conservation of soil which reduces sedimentation of river valley projects, dams and canals, and
- (4) Habitat for wildlife.

The district is not fortunate in having vast forest resources. However, before analysing its forest wealth, it would be better to examine the history.

The Banaskantha Sub-division of the Bombay Forest Department was constituted in the later part of the year 1948 with the amalgamation of Danta and Palanpur forests. With the taking over of the forests, a fundamental change in the outlook on forest preservation

1. Bombay State, Second Five Year Plan, Banaskantha District, p. 31.



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and a swing over to the policy of sound forest management were brought about. With expansion of development activities, in June 1957, the Sub-Division was converted into a Division.

PAST SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT

Palanpur and Danta State Forests

Reliable information on the past history of these forests is very scanty, if at all, probably due to the fact that the forest management was confined to keeping revenue consideration in view only. The people were also endowed with liberal rights, privileges, connexions and grants of all kinds. There was practically no inter communication between the people of different States. Forests were considered as no man's property and inexhaustible, and therefore scientifically organised management of the forests was never thought to be necessary. In short the present deplorable condition of the forest in this district can be attributed to the following causes, viz.,

(i) Silvicultural management of forests on scientific basis were never thought of as a necessity and was never applied to these forests.

(ii) Rights, concessions, privileges, etc. were liberally granted to the detriment of forest growth.

(iii) No attempts were ever made either to restrict or control the ever increasing heavy grazing.

In Palanpur and Danta the privilege holders were allowed to cut and remove on permits trees of both timber and firewood species. Exploitation by this method was indiscriminate, heavy and unsystematic. Damages done to the forests by the concessionists or privilege-holders were as follows ;

They were allowed to carry on trade on payment of nominal royalty while crossing the State limits. This naturally resulted in heavy exploitation of forests. The heavy demands of the privilege holders on the forests account for the present condition of the depleted crop.



In Danta State, except the Shikar reserves, wherein all the forest trees were strictly reserved for the exercise of privileges or any concession, and where, indeed no felling of any kind was permitted, the forests were open for privileges and concessions. However, certain species were reserved as 'Puccawood'. The species so reserved from the privilege holders were (i) *Acacia catechu Willd.* (ii) *Acacia arabica Willd.* (iii) *Diospyros melanoxylon Roxb.* (iv) *Salmalia malabarica Sch. & E.*, (v) *Grewia tiliaefolia Vahl.* (vi) *Feronia elephantum Corr.* (vii) *Dalbergia latifolia Roxb.* (viii) *Terminalia tomentosa Wt. & A.* (ix) *Azadirachta indica Juss* (x) *Mangifera indica Linn.* and other fruit trees which were considered as "Pucca wood" species and reserved.

In Palanpur State trees for Shikar reserve were strictly reserved for privilege holders as in Danta State. However, privileges were being exercised by the villagers more liberally in the rest of the forests. This is evident from the fact that certain timber species such as *Acacia catechu Willd.*, *Terminalia tomentosa Wt. & A.* and *Tectona grandis Linn.* were allowed for the purpose of domestic and agricultural requirements of the population.

Ex-rulers of both Danta and Palanpur disposed of large areas of forests just prior to and in anticipation of the merger of their States. Besides, large areas of forests in both the States were under contract entered into by the rulers with the contractors, which on the merger of the States were honoured by Bombay Government. The details of the contracts are as follows ;

Palanpur

At the time of merger the State worked 7 coupes in the forests which were worked some under clear felling and the remaining under the improvement fellings.

Danta

Just before the merger, the State entered into 4 major long term contracts as follows :

(a) *Timber, charcoal and firewood contracts*—A strip of area along the northern border (areas of Jawarisia, Kantiwas, Kamala, Mandalit, Chapri area of Shri Ambaji Range)



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were given for clear felling with the exception of 19 species. The total area under this contract was about 20 square miles. The contracts were entered into for Rs. 41,000 and were for removal of timber, firewood, charcoal, etc. The period of the contract prescribed was from 1-11-1948 to 3-10-1953. After the merger the terms of the contract were modified and in addition to the reserved trees 25% of the total stock of the other species were ordered to be retained.

(b) *Katha manufacture*—For this purpose the State had sold all the Khair trees above 12" girth at breast height from Nadad and Tarsang mahals and from Ambaji ghat village area for the sum of Rs. 71,000/- The period of contract was 3 years from 1-11-1949 to 31-10-1952.

(c) *Match wood contract*—All the forests of Danta and Shri Ambaji Ranges were leased for the matchwood extraction. The only matchwood species to be exploited was Simal (*Salmaalial malabarica* Sch. & E.) of 36" girth of Re. 1/- per tree, and the contractor was bound to pay annually a minimum sum of Rs. 5,000/- irrespective of the fact that whether the contractor could actually exploit trees worth Rs. 5,000 or not.

(d) *Timru leaves*—Forest areas of Danta and Shri Ambaji Ranges were sold for Rs. 8,000 for Timru (*Diospyros melanoxylon* Roxb.) leaves on a contract of 5 years from 1-11-1948 to 31-10-1953.

The contracts lasted till the expiry of their period long after merger of the States with the Bombay State. Attempts were, however, made on the termination of their contracts to enforce the principles of forest conservancy. The harmful practices such as exercise of very liberal privileges, unrestricted grazing, etc. have since been gradually curtailed.

PAST SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT AND THEIR RESULTS

Palanpur State Forests

Exploitation on permit system was common during the State
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regime. Timber (all *injaili*), dead firewood bamboos, *Timru* leaves and other minor forest produce was sold on permits and fixed royalty was levied while transporting the produce out of the State limits. A few species were declared as reserved trees and inhabitants from the State were allowed to cut free of charge non-reserved trees to any extent. No silvicultural system of any kind was in force. Marking of trees for sale or reservation was also not carried out. The units of areas for exploitation were formed either villagewise or in parts, thereof, and sold by open auction to intending purchasers. There was no check either on the mode or extent of the actual cutting operation, as a result of which best trees were invariably removed, leaving hollow, dying, crooked and inferior trees standing. Grazing fee was not levied on the cattle of the State but such fee was recovered from the migrated cattle.

Danta State Forests

A large part of the forest was reserved as Shikar reserve by the ex-ruler and therefore that part of the forest remained intact. The State divided the trees into (i) 'Pucca' trees and (ii) 'Kachara' trees. 'Pucca' trees consisted of 33 species which were reserved for sale. Ryots were permitted to cut free of charge or on Royalty 'Kachara' trees either for their own use or for sale within the State limits only. Custom duty was levied on forest produce that was exported outside the State limits. Charcoal manufacture was permitted only out of dead and fallen trees in the forests free of charge. Custom duty was charged on the charcoal exported.

The forests of Banaskantha form the outer most flanges of the Aravallies and include the forests of the former Palanpur and Danta States. They lie within the eastern quarter of the district and cover an area of approximately 700 sq. miles as compared with total area of the district. Their position is unique in that they contain the picturesque mountains. Secondly, they form the most useful barrier against the spread of the desert towards the easterly and southerly directions. The forests are surrounded in the north by the great Indian desert and on the west by the barren stretches of land bordering the Rann of Kachchh (Kutch). The forests, as is the case everywhere, are growing more and more barren day by day. With the advent of Independence the situation has changed and gradual effective steps were taken to preserve whatever little was left. In consideration of these factors they deserve every possible attention, particularly when it is alleged that



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the Rajasthan desert is making its inroads, and when it is agreed that the Banaskantha district is growing more and more barren with recurring draught and erratic nature of the rainfall.

Classification of the Forest Areas

On the basis of All India Classification, the forests of the district can be differentiated into three main types viz. ;

1. The tropical moist deciduous forests in parts of Ambaji Range.
2. Tropical dry deciduous forests in parts of Ambaji, Danta, Amirgadh, and Iqbalgadh Ranges.
3. Tropical thorny scrubs in the remaining area, i. e., Radhanpur Range.

Location of the Forests

The forests are situated between 24°—1' 24" and 24°—37'—30" north latitude and between 72°—15'—45" and 73° 1'—30" east longitude forming part of the Banaskantha Collectorate.

CONFIGURATION OF THE GROUND

The tract is generally sandy plain studded with a number of hills of varied gradients. Those in the north and east bordering on the Aravalli hills are mostly steep and some times precipitous. The southern slopes of the Abu hill form the catchment of the Banas river, and 15 tributaries.

Distribution and Area

In 1970-71 the forest constituted about 8 percent of the total area of the district. Practically all the land suitable for cultivation has already been brought under cultivation. Indeed, a considerable large portion of the plains is sandy and hence totally unfit for cultivation. Neither does it bear any tree growth. Consequently forest occurs only



on steep hill slopes. The Statement I.2 given below shows the forest area in the district from the years 1961-62 to 1970-71.

STATEMENT I.2

Forest areas in Banaskantha District, 1961-62 to 1970-71

Year 1	Reserved forests 2	Protected forests 3	Unclassed forests 4	Private forests 5	(Area in sq. km.) Total 6
1961-62 ..	92.10	5.49	1,274.12	225.33	1,597.04
1962-63 ..	86.57	..	1,271.16	225.33	1,583.06
1963-64 ..	87.43	..	1,278.88	225.33	1,591.64
1964-65 ..	87.24	..	1,278.88	225.33	1,591.45
1965-66 ..	87.25	..	1,449.92	225.33	1,762.50
1966-67 ..	100.95	..	1,443.00	225.33	1,769.28
1967-68 ..	100.94	..	1,443.00	225.33	1,769.27
1968-69 ..	101.08	6.09	1,419.89	224.50	1,751.56
1969-70 ..	257.21	6.09	1,066.54	224.50	1,554.34
1970-71 ..	257.14	5.50	1,018.86	224.50	1,506.00

Source :

Chief Conservator of Forests, Gujarat State, Vadodara.

State of Boundaries

The areas of unclassified forests had been neither surveyed nor demarcated. The boundaries of the forests could not, therefore, be defined either on the ground or on the map. In Danta and Ambaji Ranges even the original revenue or land survey is yet to be done and hence even the revenue village maps are not available.

LEGAL POSITION

In Palanpur and Danta States all trees were reserved by the States. However, for the purpose of exercise of the privileges, certain species of trees were held to be reserved species and other species were allowed to be cut by the public by way of grants, concessions, etc. Certain areas were, however, reserved and set aside as 'Shikar' reserves wherein all trees were reserved.

Besides these areas, there were certain Jagirs wherein the Jagirdars had certain rights. There were two kinds of Jagris viz., co-shared



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Jagirs and 'Suwang' Jagirs. In the case of the former the management was done by the State and 25% to 50% of the revenue realised was paid to the Jagirdars. The Suwang Jagirs were on the other hand managed by the Jagirdars themselves from whom custom duty known as 'Gadai' as fixed by the State was recoverable during State regime for the produce removed from these areas. This system was continued upto the end of bifurcation of bigger bilingual Bombay State. Recovery of 'Gadai' has been discontinued by Gujarat Government vide their letter No. C/3027 A of Agriculture and Lands Department dt. 14-11-1960.

The Palanpur State was merged with Bombay State on 10-10-1948 and the Danta State on 6-11-1948. However, forest administration of these States was taken over on 7th January, 1949. During the period from the merger to the date of taking over by the Forest Department of the Bombay State, the administration of these State forests was in hands of Chief Administrator.

RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES¹

For the merged areas of Palanpur and Danta States the following privileges are allowed :

- (a) Collection and removal by head loads from all forests free of charge of fallen dead wood for domestic consumption and for sale within the State.
- (b) Free grazing may be allowed as in the Gujarat State, except in worked coupes for 5 years. Goats should be allowed to graze only in areas specially set aside in each village for goat grazing.
- (c) Free grant of boulders for the construction of wells to Garashias and other cultivators as a special case and as a temporary measure.
- (d) Free grant of gravel to agriculturists for construction of wells.
- (e) Collection and removal of head loads free of charge of grass for domestic use and for sale.

1. Government of Gujarat : *Forest Privileges in Gujarat State*. (1961), p. 7.



(f) Free grant of timber under free permits for making new *Araths* (country Persian wheels) at the rate of one *Arath* per cultivator once in 2 years in all forests of Banaskantha district to Bhils, Garashias and Kolis of the villages of Ex. Shri Amirgadh Tehsil of Ex. Palanpur State and villagers of Khara, Kapasia and Hathidra as a special case and as a temporary measure.

(g) Free grant under permit of the timbers for ploughs may be allowed in all forests of Banaskantha district.

(a) One drag load of Arzia timber for one plough.

(b) One head load of Khair timber for one's own plough at the rate of anna 1 per head load. These concessions are open only to Bhils, Garashias, Kolis of Ex. Amirgadh Tehsil of Ex. Palanpur State and villages of Khara, Kapasia and Hathidra as a special case and as a temporary measure.

(c) Free grant of wood under free permits required for the repairs of huts and cattle sheds and wells from all forests to the Bhils, Garashias and Kolis of Ex. Amirgadh Tehsil of Ex. Palanpur State and villagers of Khara, Kapasia and Hathidra as a special case and as a temporary measure. No wood of reserved trees should be given.

(d) Removal, free of charge of thorns required for fencing of cultivated fields, huts and cattle sheds.

(e) Removal of fruits, grass, herbs, honey and wax and Khajuri leaves.

COMPOSITION AND CONDITION OF THE CROP

The locality factors have greatly influenced the composition and the condition of the crop all over the tract. The forest areas can be very broadly classified in to—

- (1) Forests on hills, and
- (2) Forests on plains.



Forest on Hills

This type occurs on hills where the hill tops are conspicuous by their outcrops and shallow poor soil. *Boswellia serrata* Roxb and *Lannea grandis* Engl. predominate to form more than 20 to 30% of the growing stock. In the middle portion of the hills *Acacia catechu* Willd and *Delbergia latifolia* Roxb. predominate in top canopy to form as much as 20% of the growing stock, whereas at the foot of the hills *Anogeissus pendula* Edgew predominates in all ages of classes. The following species generally constitute the growing stock.

Top Canopy.—Golia Dhav (*Anogeissus latifolia* Wall.), Simal (*Salmalia malabarica* Sch. & E.), Kalam, (*Mitragyna parvifolia* Korth), Humb (*Milliasa tomentosa* Roxb.), Sissum (*Dalbergia latifolia* Roxb.), Amla (*Emblica officinalis* Gaerth), Baheda (*Terminalia bellirica* Roxb.), Amla (*Tamarindus indica* Linn.), Bili (*Aegle marmelos* Corr.), Timru (*Diospyros melanoxylon* Roxb.), Salada (*Boswellia serrata* Roxb.), Golada (*Lannea grandis* Engl.), Kalasiris (*Albizia odoratissima* Benth) Dhaman (*Grewia tiliaefolia* Vahl), Khair (*Acacia catechu*, Willd), Jamun (*Syzygium cumini* Sk.) and Umardi (*Ficus glomerata* Roxb.).

Middle Canopy.—Kala Dhav (*Anogeissus pendula* Edgew), Hinger (*Balanites roxbughii* Planch), Khakhara (*Butea monosperma* Taub.), Dudhi (*Wrightia tinctoria* R. Br.), Garmala (*Cassia fistula* Linn.), Amla (*Emblica officinalis* Gaerth), Bor (*Zizyphus jujuba* Lamk), Tatakiyo Bawal (*Acacia eburnea* Willd.), Timru (*Diospyros melanoxylon* Roxb.) and Bamboos (*Dendrocalamus strictus* Nees.).

Lower Canopy.—Marda Sing (*Helicteres isora* Linn.), Parijatak (*Nyctanthes arbortristis* Linn.), Yankal (*Gymnosporia montana* Benth.), Ankol (*Alangium salvifolium* Wang), Ghatbor (*Zizyphus xylopyrus* Willd.), Kanthar (*Capparis sepiaria* Linn.) Rato Bawal (*Acacia jacquemontii* Benth), etc.

Teak is altogether absent in all the forests of Banaskantha Division except in a patch of about 3 sq. miles known as Sugwalinal forests situated in Ambaji Range. Teak is doing very well in this locality and there is abundant natural regeneration. The area is undulating and the soil is loamy. A nullah passes throughout this area, thus the environmental condition for the growth of teak are most favourable in this locality. Absence of teak in other localities and its abundance in this particular locality is a peculiar phenomenon.



Sadad (*Terminalia tomentosa* Wt. & A.) also occurs side by side with teak in this locality. Bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus* Nees) occurs sporadically in the interior areas of Ambaji and Danta Ranges. The existing stock is far from satisfactory from the point of view of density and quality due to unscientific methods of felling and over exploitation in the past.

Climbers are almost absent. Nevertheless one comes across *Cocculus villosus* D.C. and *Cocculus laeba* D.C. occasionally.

Ground Cover—Varieties of grasses e.g. Bhatdu (*Themeda triandra* Forsk), Durva (*Dichanthium annulatum* Stapf), Sukhli (*Heteropogon contortus* Linn.), Bara (*Sorghum halepense* Linn.), etc. are found.

Forests on the Plains

The forests on the plains are more or less stunted and there are trees with a great preponderance of mature, unsound and inferior species. The density of the crop is 0.3 to 0.4 in the thickest part. The height growth rarely exceeds 30'. Natural regeneration is poor or nil. If at all, there is some natural regeneration, it is seen in the case of *Butea monosperma* Taub. and some thorny species. At a time there occurs fine patches of *Acacia catechu* Willd where its percentage goes up to even 75% to 80% of the growing stock. There are also other patches in which Bor and Khakhar predominate forming together 80% of the growing stock. The following species predominate in certain localities which form as much as 50% of the crop, viz., Bor (*Zizyphus jujuba* Lamk.), Khair (*Acacia catechu* Willd.), Khakhar (*Butea monosperma* Taub.), Gerado (*Acacia suma* Willd.).

Besides above, the following species also occur in the top canopy.

Timru (*Diospyros melanoxylon* Roxb.), Baval (*Acacia arabica* Willd.), Kala-Siris (*Albisia odoratissima* Benth.), Bili (*Aegle marmelos* Corr.), Aniyar (*Acacia leucophloea* Willd.), Dudhi (*Wrightia tinctoria* R.Br.), Moyna (*Lannea grandis* Engl.), Rayan (*Soymida febrifuga*, Juss.), Kakad (*Garuga pinnata* Roxb.), Indarjav or Kudo (*Holarrahenia antidysenterica* Wall.).



Under Storey consists of the following species

Parijatak (*Nyctanthes arborescens* Linn.), Kardo (*Capparis aphylla* Roxb.), Ankol (*Alangium salvifolium* Linn.) Marda Sing (*Helicteres isora* Linn.), Kantharo (*Capparis sepiaria* Linn.), Kargol (*Trema orientalis* Blume), Hingori (*Balanites roxburghii* Planch), Velantaro (*Dichrostachys cinerea* Wt. & A.), Indrajav or Kudo (*Holarhena antidysenterica* Wall.).

The density of the crop varies from 0.3 to 0.4 in an average crop. Most of the crop is overmature. The height rarely exceeds 30'. Straight trees are rare. Growth varies from 18" to 36" in girth. Natural regeneration is poor. If at all, there is some growth, it is marked in the case of *Butea monosperma* Taub and some thorny species.

The ground cover is mostly formed of a very sparse growth of Parijatak (*Nyctanthes arborescens* Linn.) and some grasses most of which are grazed.

The Annexure--II giving a list of trees, shrubs and climbers and grasses occurring in the district is appended at the end of this chapter.

MARKET AND MARKETABLE PRODUCE

Major Produce

The chief marketable products of major forest produce are timber, firewood and charcoal. The demand of the market is confined to small-sized timber Sag (*Tectona grandis* Linn.) Khair (*Acacia catechu* Willd.), Golia Dhav (*Anogeissus latifolia* Wall.), Kala Dhav (*Anogeissus pendula* Edgew.), Sal (*Boswellia serrata* Roxb.), Golada (*Lannea grandis* Engl.), Sissum (*Dalbergia latifolia* Roxb.) Rayan (*Soyimida febrifuga* Juss.), Timru (*Diospyros melanoxylon* Roxb.), etc. and bamboos. The firewood species occurring in the tract are Bor (*Zizyphus jujuba* Lamk.), Khair (*Acacia catechu* Willd.) Kala Dhav (*Anogeissus pendula* Edgew.), Golia Dhav (*Anogeissus latifolia* Wall.), etc. Charcoal is manufactured mostly out of Kala Dhav (*Anogeissus pendula* Edgew.) and Golia Dhav (*Anogeissus latifolia* Wall.), which yield a good quality of charcoal. Khair (*Acacia catechu* Willd.) is also consumed for "Katha" and tannin, manufactured by Narmada Valley Chemical Industries Ltd., Rajpipla and by local small scale industries in Danta



Range. It is also heavily in demand amongst the agriculturists for the manufacture of agricultural implements. Golada (*Lannea grandis Engl.*), is used by agriculturists as dug out for use on water channels or water troughs. Simal (*Salmalia malabarica Sch. & E.*) is exploited for matchwood industries whereas various other species are utilised locally for carpentry and turnery works.

The chief minor forest produce are (1) Kaday gum, (2) Bamboos (3) Honey and wax, (4) Timru leaves, (5) Awal bark, (6) Lac (7) Khajuri leaves, (8) grasses and fodder leaves, (9) Thorns for fencing purposes, (10) Wild fruits such as *bor*, *karanj*, *timru*, etc., (11) Stones, sand, murrum, marbles lime-stones, earth, etc. Out of these Kaday gum alone fetches a revenue of about Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000 and is a major source of earning for local villagers.

MEDICINAL HERBS

In view of the abundance of the medicinal herbs in the State, the Gujarat Government appointed a Committee for Gardens of Medicinal Plants in 1964 to make a comprehensive study of the medicinal plants available in the forests in the State and to suggest their uses in preparation of the Ayurvedic medicines. The Committee, *inter alia* toured the forest areas of the Banaskantha district and studied medicinal herbs growing therein.

Medicinal Plants¹

DANTA AND JASOR

Danta Hills

Most of the Ayurvedic medicinal plants are to be seen among hills which are 1,000 to 1,500 feet high and form a part of external wing of the most ancient Aravalli ranges.

The forest is of dry deciduous type and shed the leaves during autumn. They have many herbs. From the view point of Ayurveda, the forests of Danta are of the utmost use because they are a treasure house of trees such as *Embellic myrobalan*, *Terminalia bellirica Roxb.*, *Sapindus trifoliatus*, *Pinus logifolia*, *Acacia catechu Willd.*, *Alangium*

1. Gujarat State, Report of the Committee for Gardens of Medicinal Plants appointed by the Government of Gujarat, Ahmadabad, (1969), pp. 38-44.



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lamarchi, *Anogeissus latifolia* Wall. *Holarrhena antidysenterica* Wall. *Aegle marmelos* Corr., *Gmelina arborea* Roxb., *Withnia somnifera* Dunal, *Anthocephalus cadamba* Nig, *Wrightia tinctoria* R. Br., *Feronia elephantum* Corr., *Butea frondosa* Koen, *Reurolafia serpentina* Benth., *Bombay malbaricum* DC. and *Terminalia arjuna* Wt. & A. Arjun trees found here are 200 to 300 years old. *Hemidesmus indicus* are also found in abundance.

Jasor Hills

The foot of the Jasor hill is covered with innumerable big and small trees consisting of medicinal plants like black *Anogeissus latifolia* Wall., *Andarakh*, *Anthocephalus cadamba* Nig, *Pongamia glabra* Vent. *Vitex negundo* Linn., *Prasarini*, नागवला etc. *Clematis triloba* Heync has leaves like those of *Salvadora oleoides* Dono. The leaves *Clematis* are three fold and the leaves and fruits are sweet. From this its creeper is known by the name of “*Madhuras*” also. Its sweet leaves are also sticky.

The foot of this region is covered with big trees such as *Anogeissus latifolia* Wall, *Acacia catechu* Willd., *Pongamia glabra* Vent, *Butea frondosa* Koen, and medicinal plants such as *Cissampelos pareira* Linn., *Ipomoea digitata*. *Urginea indica* Kunth, जयपाल and महाबला 10,000 scions of Jujuba trees are planted in an extremely systematic way in the fields. If the plantation of all these medicinal plants is organised on these lines in a systematic manner, they can be grown here in a better way. The kinds of jujuba trees are as under :

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Matun (Jalapump) | 6. Khareki (Ajmeri) |
| 2. Jatrani | 7. Rayan Bor |
| 3. Sahranpuri | 8. Gir Bor |
| 4. Champeli | 9. Surti (Randeri) |
| 5. <i>Zizyphus rotundifolia</i> Lamk. | |

The leaves of जीवन्ती (सीजरोटी) are similar to those of तरबुड़. However, the former are thicker than the latter. Its leaves are capable of being cut into pieces. Flowers of *Tylophora* are consumed in fresh form. Its leaves have uneven edges and are one-and-a-half finger long. Milk oozes out of its stalks. Its fruits are thick as a two-edged finger. Creepers of *Bryonia laciniata* are found everywhere.

Bryonia scabrella is of the same type as *Bryonia laciniata*.



Mentha pulegium grows upto about three-fourth of a foot and is a rare plant. Its leaves are as big and thick as those of holy basil. Its fruits are yellow and red in colour. These fruits cause watering of tongue in a way *Anacyclus pyrethrum* does. Because of this characteristic of *Mentha pulegium*, some people call it *Anacyclus pyrethrum*. कडवी डोडी is called 'Vishmushti' in Sanskrit.

There are two types of black cotton :

1. Black cotton.
2. बेणी Seeds of black cotton are black in colour and its cotton is good for lighting purposes.

Arasur Hills

Silicate of magnesia is found in these hills. This silicate of magnesia is made use of in coating medicinal pills, in polish, in leather tanning as well as in the textile industry. *Terminalia bellirica* Roxb. also grows here in abundance. The region near Balaram river is full of medicinal plants such as 'Jeevak and Rooshabhak'. The Jeevak and Rooshabhak plants grow to a height of about three to four feet in large number particularly during autumn. The climate of this region is extremely dry. Fruits of Jujuba trees growing in considerable number in the region are utilised in preparing starch. Lac of jujuba trees can be utilised as a means of birth control. Besides, *Anthocephalus indicus* Rich also grows here in abundance. Its flowers are also useful for birth control purposes. The Government should conduct a research in this regard, if feasible.

THE ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE

There is no game sanctuary in the whole district. Stray panthers are found in ex-Danta Jagiri areas. In addition to this, wild asses are found in bordering areas of the Little Rann of Kutch (Kachchh). No other game animals or birds are found in large number in this district.

The administration and management of wildlife in the State rest almost entirely with the Forest Department. The Chief Conservator of Forests who is the head of the Department, is also the Wildlife Preservation Officer, while the Deputy Conservator of Forests and Range Forest Officers also function as *ex-officio*, Wildlife Wardens and Assistant Wildlife Wardens, respectively within their jurisdictions. Some members of the public interested in wild life conservation have



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been appointed as non-official Wild Life Wardens for their respective districts.

In the past hunting was controlled and regulated under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. It was applicable to the Government forests only and was therefore, ineffective for dealing with wildlife offences committed in non-forest areas and lands of private ownership. It was the erstwhile State of Bombay which gave pioneering lead to the rest of the country by enacting an exemplary piece of legislation known as the Bombay Wild Animals and Wild Birds Protection Act, 1951, which was extended to forest as well as non-forest areas. After the formation of Gujarat State, this Act was suitably amended and promulgated as the Gujarat Wild Animals and Wild Birds Protection Act, 1963. The salient features of this Act are as follows :

(1) The Act classifies the wildlife of the State into different categories, viz., small game, big game and special big game, for each of which a separate kind of game licence has been prescribed. These game licences, which are valid for the entire State of Gujarat, can be obtained from the Wild Life Preservation Officer or from the Wild Life Wardens on payment of monthly or annual fee at the following rates :

सत्यमेव जयते			Monthly fees in Rs. 1	Annual fees in Rs. 2
Small Game Licence	..	..	10	20
Big Game Licence	..	..	30	60
Special Big Game Licence	..	..	Not being issued at present.	

The species permitted to be shot on these game licences and the bag limits prescribed are as under :

- (i) *Small Game Licence* .. One bluebull, one wild boar, one hyaena, one wolf, hares and feathered game (no limit).

(The close season for small game extends from 1st April to 30th September).



- (ii) *Big Game Licence* : One panther and one sloth bear
(There is no close season for big game).

Certain harmful species have been declared as vermin and no game licence is required for shooting the same. However, a free permit from the Deputy Conservator of Forests is required to be obtained for shooting vermin. The following animals, birds and reptiles are completely protected.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| (i) Lion | (x) Four-horned Antelope |
| (ii) Wild Ass | (xi) Rusty Spotted Cat |
| (iii) Hunting Cheeta | (xii) Pigmy Hog |
| (iv) Tiger | (xiii) Great Indian Bustard |
| (v) Sambhar | (xiv) Flamingo |
| (vi) Cheetal | (xv) Pea fowl |
| (vii) Barking Deer | (xvi) Pink-headed Duck |
| (viii) Black Buck | (xvii) White-winged Wood Duck |
| (ix) Chinkara | (xviii) Crocodile |

There is no system of shooting blocks in Gujarat State. Besides the above game licences, licences are also issued for trapping and possessing pet animals and birds and for dealing in trophies.

(2) It prohibits unsporting methods of hunting.

(3) It provides for the destruction of dangerous animals which have become a menace to human life or property.

(4) It provides for the compounding of offences against wildlife out of court, failing which the offender can be prosecuted and punished on conviction.

(5) It provides for the setting up of a State Wild Life Advisory Board comprising officials and non-officials to advice the State Government on matters and problems pertaining to wildlife. This Board works in close liaison with the Indian Board for Wild Life.

(6) It provides for the establishment of wildlife sanctuaries.



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FAUNA

WILD ANIMALS

The mammals are typified by the various domesticated animals familiar to all like the cattle, buffaloes, camels, sheep, goats, asses and horses. The first five have cloven hooves and belong to the Order ARTIODACTYLA of which all but the camel are of the family BOVIDAE which includes the various species of antelopes and gazelles of which the Nilgai *Boselophus tragocamelus* is a large cow-like animal which is still to be sparingly found among fields. To the same family belong the graceful Blackbuck *Antelope cervicapra* in which the buck has spreading spiral horns and the smaller and even more elegant Indian Gazelle or Chinkara *Gazella gazella* both of which were widespread in open plains, but now are greatly restricted to the fringes of the Rann and need complete protection. There are two species of deer with branched antlers of the Family CERVIDAE which may be still found among the hill forests east of Palanpur, the Sambar *Cervus unicolor* and the smaller and more attractively coloured Cheetal *Axis axis*. In the same Order is the Family SUIDAE represented by the Indian Wild Boar *Sus scrofa* which formerly was widespread in forest and fields, but now the numbers are greatly depleted and the exact status needs to be confirmed.

Both the cat and the dog belong to the Order CARNIVORA and in the cat family (FELIDAE) we have the Leopard *Panthera pardus* the Jungle Cat *Felis chaus* in the hill forests and the Desert Cat *F. lybica* both varying in matter of colour shading from the domestic cat and in being slightly larger size. The CANIDAE to which the dog belongs is represented by the common Jackal *Canis aureus* a scavenger, the now rare Indian Wolf *C. lupus* and the Indian Fox *Vulpes bengalensis* the smallest of the three and having a bushy tail. This order has the HYAENIDAE represented by the Striped Hyaena *Hyaena hyaena* a large ungainly dog-like animal living among ravine country and feeding on carcasses at night, the VIVERIDAE containing the familiar Common Mongoose *Herpestes edwardsi* a hedgerow predator and the night hunting Civet Cats of the genera *Viverricula* and *Paradoxurus* which are largely found among large trees and in better wooded tracts. The Smooth Indian Otter *Latrogale perspicillata* is a fish-eating mammal now rather scarce or possibly totally absent in our area and the ungainly Ratel *Malivora capensis* which is still fairly common on account of its nocturnal habits and ability of excavating deep



burrows in open country. These two belong to the Family MUSTALIDAE.

The Order PRIMATES apart from Man is represented by the Common Langur *Presthytis entellus* a member of the old world Monkeys of the Family CERCOPITHIDAE. The Desert Hare *Lepus dayanus* common among scrub covered hills and in fields is a lone species of the Family LEPORIDAE of the order LAGOMORPHA. The closely related Order RODENTIA has the common and familiar Five Stripped Squirrel *Funambulus pennantii* of the Family SCUIRIDAE, the very much larger and distinctive, and now quite uncommon Indian Procupine *Hystrix indica* with its armour of dense spines belonging to the Family HYSTRICIDAE and the various species of mice, rats and their close allies of the Family MUSIDAE. These last are plentiful both around human habitation and out in the fields, in forest country, and in open desert where they spend the day hidden in deep burrows venturing out at night to feed on shoots grain, etc., causing considerable damage to crops and stored grain. The members of the Order INSECTIVORA superficially resemble the rodents, but are great destroyers of insects and of considerable value to Man. The commonest is the Grey Musk Shrew *Suncus murinus* which freely enters houses at night running around close to the walls continually squeaking, and the prickly Pale Hedgehog *Paraechinus micropus* which rolls up into a tight ball at the least sign of danger. The former belongs to the Family SORACIDAE and the latter to the Family ERINACEIDAE.

The night flying bats and fruit bats are the only mammals which have true flight. This is possible on account of the skin stretched between the elongated phalanges of the fore limbs, and extending down to the hind limbs and round to the tail. While resting they hang head down either from branches of trees as in the case of the fruit bats or attached to crevasses in dark places in a variety of situations as in the bats, by the hind limbs. The fruit bats, as the name signifies, feed on fruits of various trees both cultivated and wild, while the bats which are smaller, capture winged insects caught in flight. The PTEROPIDAE or fruit bats is represented in our area by the large Flying Fox *Pteropus giganteus* a gregarious creature roosting in large trees while the VESPERILIONIDAE or the bats are represented by several species grouped into different genera.

It is still possible to expect a few Sloth Bears *Melursus ursinus* in the hill forests adjoining the borders of Rajasthan. It is a large



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ungainly animal with a shaggy black coat of long coarse hair. There is usually a white V-shaped mark on the breast. Like all bears, the tail is short and appears to be non-existent, the claws are long and used for digging up termite mounds. Diet is largely composed of fruits and insects, but carrion may also be eaten. These bears can climb trees and do so not only for ripe fruits, but to get at combs of honey bees. With the extermination of the Tiger *Panthera tigris* from our forests, this is the largest carnivora in the area.

BIRDS

Banaskantha has a surprisingly wide range of species thanks to its geographical location. In the north, its boundaries run across desert country of the Rajasthan to pass on further east into hilly country of the Aravalli hills and the Mewar plateau on the east. The southern boundary crosses the rich alluvial plain of Gujarat right across to the edges of the Little and the Great Ranns of Kutch (Kachchh) on the west. The physiognomy of the district is flat, rising almost imperceptibly from the Ranns to the west, to become undulating near Palanpur with tributaries of the river Banas draining the area by attractive watercourses. Further east are sharp rocky hills covered by forests and the river valleys shaded by large evergreen trees. The Ranns get flooded after the monsoon rains and large numbers of shore birds congregate in the winter months while there are many shallow *jheels* dotting the plains attracting water birds. The riverian forests are inhabited by forest species. Thus the avian list includes all species of birds other than the purely oceanic or those of very wet, evergreen, tropical forests. Various purely desert forms may be expected as residents, or may occur from time to time particularly in the winter months. The mammalian life of the district is also varied, but the larger herbivorous and carnivorous are greatly reduced in numbers and their exact status needs to be carefully assessed.

The Gujarat Bird List has about 450 species of birds divided into 63 Families grouped into 18 Orders. A majority of the Orders and Families are represented in the district, and these are briefly surveyed here.

Order I : PODICIPEDIFORMES

This Order is represented by a single Family the PODICIPEDIDAE The Grebes. These are small to medium sized birds purely aquatic in

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habits. The Little Grebe *Podiceps ruficollis* is a common and wide-spread resident frequenting fresh and saline waters singly or in small parties. The Little Grebes breed during the rainy season when they resort to fresh or brackish water choked with water plants which provide material for the large floating nests. The very much larger and distinctive Crested Grebe *P. cristatus* and the Blacknecked Grebe *P. caspicus* are both winter visitors in small numbers. They inhabit the same type of water as the resident species.

Order II: PELECANIFORMES

This Order contains two Orders the PELICANIDAE the Pelicans and the PHALACROCORACIDAE the Cormorants. Both Orders are water birds with webbed feet and fish-eating habits. The fish are captured alive and swallowed completely. The pelicans have long bills with distensible pouches with the which fish, often fairly large are scooped out of the shallow water into which they are driven by flocks hunting in unision. There are two species of pelicans, both white in the adult plumage with black flight feathers. Mainly non-breeding winter visitors, the Rosy Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* has bred in the Great Rann from time to time. The two species are rather confusing and it is only at close range that the rosy tinge in the plumage of the former species is noticeable. The cormorants are all black birds with elongated bodies commonly seen perched on tree stumps or rocks with wings spread out to dry in the sun. The Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* is the largest and the adults have white on the flanks and throat. It nests on trees standing in water in large colonies, constructing big, untidy nests of sticks. The Little Cormorant *P. niger* is appreciably smaller but equally widespread. The Shag *P. fuscicollis* is possibly overlooked since it closely resembles *P. niger* and may be an uncommon visitor in winter. The cormorants swim low in the water, often with only the neck showing, and from time to time dive under to chase fish below the surface. This mode of fishing is also employed by the closely related Snake Bird *Anhinga rufa* which has a very long, slender neck ending in a sharp, dagger-like bill. Snake Birds and the two resident species of cormorants are resident and breed during the height of the rains. Pelicans are large and bulky birds and take to flight with considerable effort, but once aloft are magnificent flier, soaring for great length of time with effortless grace. The cormorants and snake birds also find taking off difficult and have to patter over the surface of the water for considerable distances, but once airbourne, they fly fast and far.



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Order III: CICONIIFORMS

This Order contains the herons, egrets and bitterns of the Family ARDEIDAE the Family CICONIDAE the storks, the Family THRESKIORNITHIDAE the ibises and the spoonbills and the Family PHOENICOPTERIDAE the flamingoes.

These are all large birds with long legs for wading in shallows, and have characteristic bills for snatching live prey from water and the mud at its bottom. Frogs and snails as well as other aquatic life are also captured and eaten. They frequent both fresh and saline waters and where fish are plentiful will assemble in large numbers, particularly the flamingoes which congregate in thousands on the Ranns when they are flooded. The resident storks, herons, egrets, and ibises all nest on trees in colonies sharing them with cormorants and snakebirds, while the bitterns nest more isolated in reedbeds. The flamingoes construct mud nests in shallow water in the Great Rann at a traditional site north of Kachchh and they assemble here in millions in suitable years. Our resident storks are the Painted Stork *Ibis leucocephalus* the slightly smaller Openbilled Stork *Anastomus oscitans* and Whitenecked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* and the Blacknecked Stork *Xanorhynchus asiaticus*. The last is a large bird with a prominent black bill and solitary habits frequenting extensive reedbeds. The White Stork *C. ciconia* has a red beak, red legs and a white body with black wings. It is a regular winter visitor in small numbers. We have three species of ibis, all of them have long, downcurved bills with which they probe into wet mud for frogs and other animals. The White Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephala* is white with a bald black head and black bill, legs and wings, the Black Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa* is black, with small, yet prominent white patches on the shoulders and a bright red skull patch while the Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* is distinguished by its smaller size and bronzed black plumage with the absence of the red skull patch and the white shoulder patches. The first two species are resident, the former joining the other water birds in colonial nesting sites during the monsoon rains while the latter nests apart in large trees, often in the middle of cities. The Glossy Ibis is a winter visitor, though there are possibilities of it nesting in our area. The Spoonbill *Platalea leucordia* is a pure white bird with a straight bill having a spoon-like flattening at the tip. It walks along briskly through shallow waterswiping, the bill in the water from side to side, snapping up fish. This bird is a resident and joins the other water birds to nest communally. The ARDEIDAE comprising



the herons of the genus *Ardea*, the egrets of the genus *Egretta* and others of the genus *Butorides*, *Ardeola*, *Ixobrychus*, *Botaurus* and *Nycticorax* are all waterside birds which stalk and capture fish, frogs and other larger aquatic life with a rapid jab of the sharp daggerlike bill. Most of the species are resident and nest during the monsoon rains with the other water birds. The Cattle Egret *Babulcus ibis* is a common sight feeding among grazing cattle, often far from any water. It nests in separate colonies often on trees in the middle of villages. Flamingoes are distinctive white birds with rosy wings. The Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber* frequents freshwater lakes when not breeding in the Great Rann while the smaller and more colourful Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* collects in immense numbers on the flooded Rann, especially at the mouth of the Banas river.

Order IV: ANSERIFORMES

This Order has a large Family of water birds swans, geese and ducks, all of which have flattened bills with comblike serrations along the sides of the mandibles for filtering aquatic plants and animals from the water and ooze. They have sturdy, but comparatively short legs with fully webbed feet for swimming, and long necks to reach down to submerged food. The geese and some of the larger ducks spend much time on land where they crop soft green shoots. Some of the ducks inhabit deeper water and dive for their food. These last are known as Diving Ducks and they are rather awkward on land on account of their legs being placed well back of the body. The other ducks which do not dive, but reach down by tilting their bodies forward, take to the air by springing lightly off the water. All the members of this Family, the ANATIDAE are strong fliers and most of them are long distant migrants coming to us from Central Asia and Siberia and beyond during the winter months. They then are found in small and large flocks on all the marshy locations, fresh water reservoirs, road side ditches, and on the flooded Ranns. At times, the numbers may run into thousands of individuals. The Diving Ducks belong to the two genera *Aythya*, and *Netta* and are all winter visitors. The largest number of species belong to the genus *Anas* of which the Spot-billed Duck *A. poecilorhyncha* is a resident breeding during the rainy season, while the rest are all winter visitors of which the commonest are the Common Teal *A. crecca*, the Pintail *A. acuta*, the Shoveller *A. clypeata* and the Gargany *A. querquedula*. Identification of the various species of the above species is readily possible by the distinctive colours of the drakes and of both sexes by specific colours of wing-



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bands or specula. The large and handsome Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* is a fairly common winter visitor from the Tibetan lakes and the handsome Shelduck *T. tadorna* is an uncommon winter visitor to the flooded Ranns. The Barheaded Goose *Anser indicus* and Greyleg Goose *A. anser* are both winter visitors now less common. The large, black and white Nukta *Sarkidiornis melanotos* in which the male has a large fleshy knob on the upper mandible, the very diminutive Cotton Teal *Nettapus coromandelianus* and the Lesser Whistling Teal *Dendrocygna javanica* are all fairly common resident ducks breeding on fresh water reservoirs during the monsoon season. Since all members of this Order are avidly hunted and snared, complete protection to the resident species must be ensured during the nesting season.

Order V : FALCONIFORMES

This Order contains all the diurnal birds of prey or raptors. It is divided into two Families the ACCIPITRIDAE and the FALCONIDAE. The former contains the vultures, the eagles, buzzards and hawks, while the latter the falcons. The Whitebacked Vulture *Gyps bengalensis* and the slightly smaller Longbilled Vulture *G. indicus* are the commonest of the large, resident vultures and are most likely to be seen feeding in throngs around carcasses or soaring effortlessly overhead in the sky. The Griffon *G. fulvus* is another large resident vulture, while the much smaller and distinctive Neophron or White Vulture *Neophron pershipterus* is a common sight feeding on village refuse dumps. Vultures nest during the winter months building huge nests on tall trees though *G. indicus* nests on cliff faces of rocky hills. In winter two very large vultures may be looked for, the Himalayan Griffon *G. himalayensis* and the Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*, the former a distinctively light coloured bird and the latter very much darker. The Black or King Vulture *Torgos calvus* is a very distinctive bird with a bare red head with red lappets, red neck and red thighs and legs. It is rather uncommon but a resident species. All vultures are magnificent soarers and spend most of the day high in the heavens keeping a sharp look out for dead or dying animals below and fellow vultures flying around. A single bird dropping draws attention of the others flying around and in this way birds appear from all quarters of the heavens within a very short time. The larger eagles are rather sluggish and not averse to feeding on carrion. Of these, the Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* is a resident of open plains while the very large and light headed Pallas's Fishing Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* is more



widespread in winter and possibly breeds only along the larger rivers among the eastern hills. Several other species of large eagles of the *Aquila* genus visit us in winter when they are particularly common along the edges of the Ranns and in the open plains of Tharad and Deesa. Several species of smaller eagles are best represented by the resident Bonelli's Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus facciatus* seen in pairs near large trees or among broken hill country, and the very similar winter visitor the Booted Eagle *Hierasetus pennatus* common throughout the area. The distinctive Crested Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus* is a resident of forested hills on the east while the Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus* is a partial resident in better wooded country, though more widespread in winter. A familiar sight is the flight of Pariah Kite *Milvus migrans* and pairs of attractive Brahminy Kites *Maliastur indus* may be seen near large trees close to reservoirs and rivers. In winter four species of harriers glide on long, slender wings close over the ground surprising small birds or rodents. Of these, the Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* is invariably seen flying over reedbeds. The Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* is a distinctive, long winged hawk with white lower parts and white black head seen over water, both fresh or saline, or sitting beside it in the winter months. It feeds on fish captured by plunging in from above. Before doing so, the osprey hovers in midflight an ability shared with the equally large Short-toed Eagle *Circus gallicus* a partial resident of open plains and grasslands, the small but elegant Blackwinged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* a light grey or white raptor seen perched on telegraph poles in fields and grassland facies, and the Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* a falcon which is a common winter visitor to open country both in plains and on hills. These last two feed on insects and small birds and rodents. The round winged hawks are raptors which swiftly chase their quarry, mainly small birds, capturing them by surprise and are either winter visitors as is the Sparrow-Hawk *Accipiter virgatus* which is most likely to be overlooked as the resident and more common Shikara *A. badius* which nests in the hot season. The buzzards are about the size of the kite, but have bulkier forms and broad, rounded wings which permit them to soar effortlessly. They are all winter visitors and found commonly in open plains, the most frequent being the Long legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*. The smaller and more sharp winged White-eyed Buzzard *Butastur teesa* is a partial migrant widely distributed in winter in open country but nesting among large trees at the onset of the hot season. Apart from the Kestrel, already mentioned, we have the Lanner or Luggard Falcon *Falco biarmicus* a resident seen hunting swiftly in pairs throughout our area, the Peregrine Falcon *F. peregrinus*, a



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winter visitor, though it is dark from the Shahin Falcon may be resident on the outliers of the Aravalli Hills to the east, the dainty, silvery grey Redheaded Merlin *F. chicquera* is a resident living around large trees in pairs, while the small and swift Hobby *F. subbuteo* is a winter visitant.

Order VI : GALLIFORMES

The Common Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*, our National Bird, is a representative of this Order belonging to the Family PHASIANIDAE to which belong the other representatives of this Order in our district. They all are terrestrial birds feedings, nesting and as in the case of quails roosting on the ground. They all lay large clutches of pure white eggs, though some of the quails have speckled eggs. Largely birds of grasslands and tangled thickets, they are common along hedges in fields. The Painted Partridge *Francolinus pictus* is familiar on account of its loud ringing call uttered through the rainy months, the Grey Partridge *F. pondicerianus* is common in more open country and in fields, while the dimunitive Rain Quail *Coturnix coromandelica* is very common during the rains when it breeds in all types of country with the scantiest of cover. Its double call note is a common bird sound. The slightly larger Common Quail *C. coturnix* is chiefly a winter visitor and may flush into rapid whirring flight from grass and standing crops. Flocks of half a dozen small quails are met with in drier scrub country and stony ravines. They would most likely be the Rock Bush Quail *Perdicula argoonadh* while the closely related and very similar Jungle Bush Quail *P. asiatica* inhabits the better wooded hilly areas to the east. These little quails sleep huddled up into a circle, facing outside, on the ground and when approached will burst into explosive flight almost at the very last moment, the effect being very startling. It is likely that the Grey Jungle Fowl *Gallus sonneratii* and the Red Spurfowl *Gallopterix spadicea* are both common in the hill forests of Ambaji and Danta as they are on the Mount Abu.

Order VII : GRUIFORMES

This Order of the Cranes and their allies contains four distinctive Families of ground birds all of which walk well and nest on the ground. They range from the small egg the TURNICIDAE or the Bustard Quails to the large egg the GRUIDAE the Cranes and the OTIDIDIE the Bustards. The Bustard Quails are dimunitive, quail-like birds inhabiting open plains among semidesert, grasslands and fields. They



are great skulkers and seldom seen. The intriguing character of the Family is that it is the females which are larger, brightly coloured and court the males while the latter care for the eggs and chicks. Polyandry is the rule. Three species, very confusing to identify in the field occur as residents in our area. The cranes are tall graceful birds of which the stately Sarus *Grus antigone* is a familiar resident seen in fields and besides fresh water in pairs constructing large mound nests of grasses in shallow water during the rains to rear a single chick. The Common Crane *G. grus* and the elegant Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo* are both common in winter feeding in fields or flying to resting areas beside reservoirs or on flooded expanses of the Ranns. They are gregarious birds and exceptionally wary of approach. The Great Indian Bustard *Choriotis nigriceps* is a bird of open semi desert and grasslands formerly quite plentiful in the district, but now presumably very scarce over its former range. This fine game bird needs complete protection. During the monsoon rains the Lesser Florikan *Syphaeotides indica* is a common breeding visitor, departing for Central India after the rains. They resort to extensive grasslands and standing crops when they are with us. In winter the edges of the Ranns may be visited by the Houbara *Chlamydotis undulata* which like the florikan is a small bustard. The fourth Family comprises rails, coots and their allies. The various species of the RALLIEDAE are all inhabitants of reedbeds and waterside thickets where the smaller members are largely overlooked. Among these the commonest is the all black Coot *Fulica atra*. The Moorhen *Gallinula chlorodas*, swimming on water and feeding on surface plants and the distinctive and resident Whitebreasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* and the partially, resident and showy Purple Moorhen *Porphyrio porphyrio* are of marshy vegetation. There are many other species of this Family either residents or winter visitors scuttling about among rank plant growth on the margins of fresh water. They all build nests, often domed, on reeds and grasses among dense bushes and over water. They all are poor fliers and rely on their skulking habits and fast running to get away from danger.

Order VIII : CHARADRIFORMES

This is a very large and well represented order of waterside birds, with considerable external differences in body form and feeding habits. The various Families all have, however, very characteristic species the relationship of which can be easily recognised. The Pheasant tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* is an attractive bird which



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inhabits fresh water choked with weeds on which the bird moves with ease on account of its very elongated toes. During the nesting season during the height of the rains, both sexes develop a long sickle shaped tail, chocolate brown body plumage and a contrastly white face and a golden crown, nape and hind neck. The wings are at all times prominently white with a black border and are particularly eye-catching in flight. When not breeding the plumage becomes nondescript except for the wings, and the long tail feathers are dropped. Jacanas collect floating weeds to make a nest. The other Families with one or two species each occurring in our area are the ROSTRATULIDAE the Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* being a sole representative in which the female is the aggressive sex with poly-androus tendencies, the ROCURVIORIDAE has the familiar waterside water the Blackwinged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* and the Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* also a wader mainly seen during winter in large flocks on the flooded Ranns and in smaller numbers on inland waters ; both are black and white wading birds, the former has long, slender, red legs, while the latter had a slender and upcurved bill. The BURHINIDAE contains the Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedinenus* a brown bird with large yellow eyes and crepuscular habits found in orchards and scrub jungle resting or feeding on the ground, and the very smaller, but larger Great Stone Curlew *Esacus magnirostris* found in small parties on rocky and shingly beds beside water. The coursers and the pratincoles are two genera of the Family GLAREOLIDAE with very distinct forms and food gathering habits. The courses have long legs and procure their insect food by running. They inhabit open country, semi desert, fallow cultivation and stony pastures. The Indian Courser *Cursorius coromandelicus* is a resident while the pale Cream coloured Courser *C. cursor* is a winter visitor inhabiting very open country, particularly near salt flats. The pratincoles have shorter legs, but long slender wings and forked tails which enable them to swiftly pursue winged insect prey over wet mud and water. The Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* is partially resident and nest near water laying eggs on the sand or dry mud during the hot season, while the smaller and lighter *G. lectea* is a non-breeding visitor from the larger river systems of India. The CHARADRIDAE is divided into the sub-family Charadrineae the Lapwings and plovers and the subfamily SCOLOPACINAE the waders. The Redwattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* and the Yellow-wattled Lapwing *V. malabaricus* are both common and familiar ground birds, the former in fields and near fresh while the latter more a bird of drier places. In winter the White-tailed Lapwing *V. leucurus* visits marshy locations while it is possible



that flocks of Sociable Lapwing *V. gregarius* visit the drier plains in variable numbers. The sparrow-sized Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* is a resident beside water both fresh and saline, while several other very similar small plovers of the genus are winter visitors among the flocks of other small waders on wet mud. The larger plovers of the genus *Pluvialis* are winter visitors to mud flats and open country. The waders of the second subfamily are all winter visitors and are highly gregarious frequenting water edges and congregating in immense flocks on the flooded Ranns. The most distinctive of these and the largest are the curlew and allies of the genus *Numenius* with long, slender, downcurved bills and plaintive calls. The slightly smaller Blacktailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* has a long straight bill. The still smaller shanks and sandpipers of the genus *Tringa* and the sparrow-sized stints and allies of the genus *Calidris* are all found in confusing association often in flocks of immense dimensions. The Ruff and Reeve *Philomachus pugnax* is a bird often found in open fields and pastures as well as near water while the cryptically coloured snipe of the genus *Capella* are solitary and associated with wet marshy vegetation. They have long, straight bills with sensitive tips used for probing deep into mud for worms.

The LARIDAE is a family which is difficult to recognise as belonging to this Order since the birds have webbed feet, long, slender wings and bouyant flight. The terns of the genera *Sterna*, *Chidonias*, *Gelochelidon* and *Hydoroprogne* are all largely grey with black caps. They have bouyant or fluttering flight and feed largely on fish and aquatic insects caught by plunging in from above. Gulls of various species all belong to the genus *Larus* are more robust and have a slower flight. The Indian River Tern *Sterna aurantia* is the commonest resident tern while others are local migrants or long range migrants coming in winter only whereas all the gulls are winter visitors. All members of this order, with the exception of the jacana, painted snipe and one of the terns lay their eggas on bare ground often quite in the open. The young of all Families quickly leave the nest area and can run with ease.

Order IX : COLUMBIFORMES

This Order contains the sandgrouse PTEROCLIDIDAE and the pigeons and doves COLUMBIDAE Sandgrouse are birds of open fields, pasturelands and semideserts. They remain on the ground where they glean grass seeds and shoots. They lay their eggs on the



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bare ground and it is the cryptic colouration of the parents, the eggs and chicks which saves them from harm. Sandgrouse flight every morning to drink and in the type of country which they mainly inhabit, the few water places are visited by thousands of sandgrouse from miles around. The Indian Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus* is a resident of open plains while the Painted Sandgrouse *P. indicus* is of the hill and forest areas in the east. During winter the Imperial Sandgrouse *P. orientalis* and the smaller Spotted Sandgrouse *P. senegallus* may be found in the semidesert plains along the edges of the Rann and Rajasthan. The Blue Rock Pigeon *Columbia livea* is a common and familiar bird living in close association with men. The Ring Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* and the Little Brown Dove *S. senegalensis* are both common in fields and semi-desert, while the Spotted Dove *S. chinensis* is a bird of the hill forests and better wooded cultivation east of Palanpur. The pretty Red Turtle Dove *S. tranquebarica* is associated with acacia groves, and the Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicoptera* is a bird of large road side ficus and forested country.

Order X : PSITTACIFORMES

The familiar Roseringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* is found throughout the district nesting down holes in trunks and branches of larger trees and walls of old forts and under crevices of larger houses. The smaller and very elegant Blossomheaded Parakeet *P. cyanocephala* is likely to be a common resident in the hill forests. These parakeets belong to the family PSITTACIDAE

Order XI : CUCULIFORMES

All our cuckoos belong to the single Family CUCULIDAE. The Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea* is familiar except in the very driest parts, lays eggs in nests of crows. Its call is a familiar bird sound of summer. The Common Hawk Cuckoo *Cuculus varius* may be heard during the rains in better wooded areas and particularly among hill forests. The very similar Cuckoo *C. canorus* is a late monsoon visitor, possibly a passage migrant in autumn, though individuals may be seen throughout winter. The conspicuously pied, and breasted Pied Crested Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus* is a s. w. monsoon, breeding visitor throughout our area, laying in the nests of the various babblers which breed at this time of the year. The large Crow-pheasant or Coucal *Centropus sinensis* is an inhabitant of hedges, tangled shrubs and jungle. It is recognised by its black body and tail, chestnut wings and red eye and



its habit of walking about on the ground. The less familiar Sirkeer Cuckoo *Taccocua leschenaultii* inhabits drier country and may be looked for in tall grass and scrub jungle. These last two cuckoos build their own nests, the former a football-sized domed structure, and the latter a shallow cup of twigs. These structures are sited in dense shrubs and are not easy to locate.

Order XII : STRIGIFORMES

Family STRIGIDAE comprises the owls which are all nocturnal raptors with habits and physical resemblances to the hawks. Where the hawks are entirely diurnal, the owls are entirely nightflying spending the day sheltered in holes in tree trunks, among dense foliated trees, in caves and in attics of large houses. The larger owls may, however, come out to sit in the winter sun and a few winter visitors may do a little hunting in the early mornings. Their prey ranges from birds as large as crows, through night active mammals, mainly rodents of all types, to insects caught on the wings. Our commonest owl is Spotted Owlet *Athene brama* which is found in all types of country both close to and away from human habitation. This little owl is an insect feeder and may be seen frequenting street lamps. Three species of scope owls of the genus *Otus* are to be expected in better wooded parts of the district, while the large Great Horned Owl *Bubo bubo* and the very similar Dusky Horned Owl *B. coromandus* may be looked along the river embankments and rocky cliffs of the hilly terrain. The distinctive Barn Owl *Tyto alba* is seldom seen, but may be commonly heard hissing and screeching around houses, particularly large old structures. The Shorteared Owl *Asio flammeus* is a regular winter visitor frequenting patches of tall grass. Several other species of owls may be occurring in the hilly forest country but these are seldom noted on account of their nocturnal habits.

Order XIII : CAPRIMULGIFORMES

The CAPRIMULGIDAE consisting of the nightjars is another family of night-flying birds which feed on insects. They have long wings and tails, and very short legs totally unsuitable for walking, though they spend the day in sleeping on and lay their eggs on the bare ground. The birds are highly cryptically coloured and on the ground are almost impossible to notice. At night the various species are easily identified by their specific calls and the motor headlights make the eyes of birds sitting on the roads shine making people aware of their otherwise



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non-obstrusive existence. The commonest and most widely distributed in the area is the Indian Nightjar *Caprimulgus asiaticus*. The Franklin's Nightjar *C. affinis* is locally resident and partial to broken, jungle covered country while the European Nightjar *C. europaeus* is an autumn passage migrant.

Order XIV : APODIFORMES

The APODIDAE contains the swifts which are similar to nightjars in their small, nonfunctional legs, elongated wings for flight to capture aerial insects, but whereas the former nest on the ground, swifts never do so and in fact would not be able to take off again if they did settle on the ground. They cling to rock faces and their nests of feathers glued together by the birds' saliva are sited under ceilings and eaves of old houses, and inside natural caves if any in the area. The House Swift *Apus affinis* a small black bird with a white chin and rump is a gregarious bird common everywhere. The very much larger Alpine Swift *A. melba* may be seen flying over in aerial forays possibly from the Abu hills where they are suspected of breeding. Being fast fliers, other species of swifts may be sighted from time to time.

Order XV : CORACIIFORMES

This Order contains three very colourful families with specific representation on our list, viz., the ALCEDINIDAE the kingfishers, the MEROPIDAE the bee-eaters, the CORACIDAE the rollers, as well as the UPUPIDAE with a single species the hoopoe *Upupa epops* and the BUCEROTIDAE the grotesque hornbills. The kingfishers are to medium sized robust birds with short legs and tails, but with long straight bills. They are largely fish-eaters and consequently are found close to fresh water, particularly the Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* and the diminutive Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* a veritable gem of a bird resplendent in scintillating shades of blue. The beautiful White-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* feeds on large insects and small reptiles as well and may frequent places at considerable distances from water. All kingfishers like the bee-eaters excavate long nest tunnels into earthen embankments. The breeding season in both groups is during the hot season. The bee-eaters are all of various shades of green. They have triangular wings, long, slightly down-curved bills and a habit of perching on wires or other exposed perches from which they sally after flying insects to return to the perch with



the prey. The commonest is the Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis* a bright green bird highly bronzed on the head and mantle, with a blue throat. The Bluecheeked Bee-eater *M. superciliosis* is very much larger with chestnut on the underwings, visible in overhead flight and yellow on the throat. It has been recorded breeding on the Pachchham Island of Kachchh and is likely to do so in our district as well, it is, however, a very common bird during the winter months. One of the two species of rollers found with us is the Kashmir Roller *Coracias garrulus*, a pale blue bird which is common as an autumn passage migrant. The more richly coloured Indian Roller *C. benghalensis* is a common resident in better wooded parts of the district and elsewhere as a familiar nonbreeding visitor. Rollers perch on wires and other exposed perches from where they keep a sharp look out for insects, flying down to pick them up and returning to the vantage point with the trophy. The Hoopoe with its zebra colourings, pick-axe like head with the long slender bill and crest is a common bird seen probing in soft earth under trees and grass turf near water. Only a few pairs may breed in the better wooded parts of our area, but the northern migratory race is common and widely distributed during the winter. The crest is erected when the bird is agitated and spreads out into a full fan. The Common Grey Hornbill *Tokus birostris* is an ungainly grey bird with a large bill topped by a casque on the upper mandible. It is a gregarious bird living among large ficus trees and may be a fairly abundant resident of the riverain forests and better wooded fields adjacent to the hilly country. Rollers, hoopoes and hornbills nest in natural cavities in tree trunks, the former two may use suitable locations in crumbling walls as well.

Order XVI : PICIFORMES

The barbets CAPITONIDAE and the woodpeckers PICIDAE are both tree-swelling birds which excavate nest holes in wood of branches and trunks. The former are plump birds with rapid whirring, light and frugivorous diet while the latter are adapted to clinging to sides of trees around which they progress hunting for insects lurking among the bark or boring for grubs deeper inside the wood. Our commonest barbet is the sparrow-sized Crimsonbreasted Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala* a plump green bird with red and yellow patches on the head. It is found on large trees throughout the district and its metallic *tonk-tonk-tonk*-is common birdsound in summer. The larger and less brightly coloured Green Barbet *M. zeylanica* is fairly common in the hill forests and among larger trees in countryside near them. Both barbets feed



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largely on figs and other wild berries and fruits and nest during the early part of the hot season. The green plumage makes it difficult to locate them, but their characteristics and repetitious calls draw attention to the birds. Of the woodpeckers, the Yellowfronted Pied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos mahrattensis* is distributed throughout the district, particularly where there are acacia and prosopis trees in fields, as well as in scrub jungles and open deciduous forests. The larger Goldenbacked Woodpecker *Dinopium benghalense* is likely to be resident in the better wooded parts of eastern Banaskantha. The Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* is a fairly common winter visitor in all types of country other than pure desert.

Order XVII : PASSERIFORMES

This is a very large order and contains all the common birds found around gardens and which are known as Song Birds or Perching Birds. There are many species of it. Describing each family in detail would occupy far too much space than the present work warrants and as such only a brief outline is provided here. To generalise, it may be stated that passers are all from small to medium-large in size, the crows and in particular the Raven *Corvus corax* are the largest. The Raven is likely to be found as a rare resident on the edge of the Rann and more frequently as a winter visitor. It is an all-black crow about the size of a kite and has long wings and a wedge-shaped tail which is noticeable in flight. This differentiates it from the smaller all-black crow the Jungle Crow *C. macrohynchos* most likely to be found in the eastern parts of the district. The House Crow *C. splendens* is a common bird of human habitation and is uniformly distributed throughout the area. These last two crows nest in the later part of summer and into the rains and are parasitised on by the koel. The longtailed and elegant Tree Pie *Dendrocitta vagabunda* is found among trees in all types of country other than absolute semidesert country. The cheery Redvented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer* is another common garden and hedgerow bird while the Whitecheeked Bulbul *P. leucogenys* with a yellow vent is partial to the drier parts where salvadora and caparis bushes predominate. The jaunty Redwhiskered Bulbul *P. jocus* is likely to be found in the better watered and forested hilly tracts. The Marshall's Iora *Aegithina nigrolutea* is a charming bird of scrub jungle and the male is a bright yellow with black in the wings and on the head during the onset of the rains when the nesting season commences. The very similar Common Iora *A. tiphia* is likely to replace the former in the wetter eastern parts. Flocks of small elegant



and slender birds with much crimson red in the plumage may be noted flitting among trees throughout the area and these most probably would be either the Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus* with grey upper parts, or the Whitebellied Minivet *P. erythropygius* in which the male has a distinct pied effect. These charming birds are arboreal as are the Common Wood Shrike *Tephrodornis pondicrianus* a non-descript grey bird moving around in pairs with a distinct call and its larger relative the Large Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae* which is a forest bird and may be seen in winter on tall trees in cultivation. The flycatchers are a charming group of small birds which perch upright on a perch and make sorties after minute winged insects. They are birds of trees and prefer shady glens, though the brown Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* which is found in drier areas as a plentiful autumn passage migrant. The Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *M. tickelliae* breeds during the rains along forested valleys but spreads out to shady gardens at other times of the year, as does the Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi* in which the male has a milky white plumage with a black crested head and long white streamers in the tail. This attractive bird is denizen of shady groves and forest streams. The White-browed Fantail Flycatcher *Rhipidura aureola* is an active, smoke-brown little bird which prances and flits about with its long, full tail kept fanned, its prominent white eyebrow is diagnostic. It is a bird of large trees and forest country. The diminutive Redbreasted Flycatcher *M. parva* is a common winter visitor throughout the district, fields and forest and its presence is notified by a loud clicking call. The male has a brickred breast and both sexes flick the tail up all the time. Related to the flycatchers, but grouped into subfamilies of their own are the babblers, robins and chats, and the thrushes. Babblers are birds of shrubberies and generally move around in loose flocks of half a dozen individuals. The commonest is the Common Babbler *Turdoides caudata* a brown bird with darker streakings. It inhabits grass, hedgerows and is very generally distributed through the district and is particularly common in the drier parts. The larger Large Grey Babbler *T. malcolmi* is also found throughout the area. The Yelloweyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinensis* inhabits the better watered areas and inhabits shrubberies and tangled grass. Other species of babblers are likely to be met in the area. The robins and chats in various forms are a feature of our avifauna. They are all small birds with wide awake appearances hopping or running about singly or in pairs on the ground hunting for insects. The Indian Robin *Saxicoloides fulicata* is a cheery little bird with jaunty ways keeping the tail cocked. The male is black below, and



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dark brown above with white patches in the wings and a russet one on the vent. The female is dark brown with the russet vent patch, but lacking the white wing markings. It is at home among villages, in rocky ravines and out in the semidesert areas where it is one of the most plentiful of birds. The similar, though larger and with more white Magpie Robin or Dhayal Thrush *Copsychus saularis* is a bird of irrigated gardens and shady locations and breeds during the hot months in the hilly areas. It is a fine songster. During winter several species of Wheatears of the genus *Oenanthe* visit the area, they are birds of desert and semidesert areas as well as dry rocky ravines. The commonest are the conspicuously Pied Chat *O. picata* of rocky country, the pale coloured Desert Chat *O. desertii* of open semidesert country and the edges of the Rann. The Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitaria* is a dark looking thrush which is found on rocky escarpments and old forts and places. The Blackbird *Turdus merula* spends the winter in shady locations rummaging for fallen berries and lurking insects among the leaves and rotting litter, but breeds in summer in the hill forests of nearby Mt. Abu where its song can be heard throughout the day. The Bluethroat *Erithacus svecicus* carries the tail cockes and hops about among damp vegetation during the winter, while the collared Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata* with a russet orange breast and the Pied Stone Chat *S. torquata* are both common in winter in cultivated areas where they may be seen prominently perched aloft a tall stalk from where they fly down to the ground for insects. The attractive Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* has an orange-brown tail which it shivers as it hops or flits around in cool spots. It is a common winter visitor.

The most confusing group of birds are the different species of warblers which are both resident or winter visitors. They are all small birds and found flitting about restlessly among bushes, shrubs and crowns of tress. Their best identity is the calls which they constantly utter drawing attention of their presence. The Tailor Bird *Orthotomus sutorius* is the most common visitor to garden shrubberies and its loud, chirping call is a common bird call during the hot season when the bird starts building its nest of sewn leaves. It is green above and white below and keeps its tail jauntily cocked as does the Indian Robin. The ashy Longtail Warbler *Prinia socialis* is a bird of better watered areas while the plain Longtailed Warbler *P. subflava* is generally distributed among standing crops. Other species of the genus *Prinia* occur in grasslands, thorn forest and scrubs and in semideserts. The winter warblers, all confusing and arriving in considerable numbers.

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They belong to the genera *Acrocephalus*, *Hippolais* *Sylvia* and *Phylloscopus* to mention these genera with the largest numbers of species and individuals. Warblers have fine bills which suggest their insectivorous diet. Among the ground living Passerines we have the various species of larks and finch larks which may be seen running about in pairs or flocks in open country. The commonest lark of the area is the Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*. The Ashy crowned Finch Lark *Eremopterix grisea* is a bird of quite open country, the male having a black belly and both sexes highly camouflaged to be overlooked at close range in complete open. The larger and dark brown Rufous-tailed Finch-Lark *Ammomanes phoenicurus* is another bird of open fields and pastureland. Along the edges of the Ranns lives the large and conspicuous Desert Lark *A. alaudipes* showing black and white in the wings in flight and at close range the rather long and curved bill is apparent, while in grass and scrub jungle lives the Redwinged Bush Lark *Mirafra erythropetra*. Its close relative the Singing Bush Lark *M. javanica* inhabits larger expanses of taller grass. During winter the open plains are visited by great flocks of Eastern Calandra Lark *Malanocorypha bimaculata* and the slightly smaller and more plentiful Shorttoed Lark *Calandrella cinerea*. Larks are ground nesters and all of them run well and fly into the air in uptail flights accompanied with singing.

Resembling the larks, but with longer tails and legs, and with streaking on the breast are the several forms of pipits of the genus *Anthus*. They are found in the same habitat as the larks and might be confused with them. The commonest is the Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* with very light tawny colouring and faint breast streaks. The Indian Tree Pipit *A. trivialis* is partial to ground under shady trees along road sides. The other pipits are found running about in open country, on stony ground and near water. They all are winter visitors, though in a few localities the Paddy field Pipit *A. novaeseelandiae* may be a resident. The wagtails are related to the pipits but belong to the genus *Motacilla*. Apart from the Large Pied Wagtail *M. madaraspatensis* a bird found along the rocky, more perennial streams, all the other species are winter visitors. The White Wagtail *M. alba* is grey and white with some black on the head and breast, the various forms of Yellow Wagtail *M. flava* grey and yellow, the Yellowheaded Wagtail *M. citreola* has a conspicuous yellow head while the Grey Wagtail *M. caspica* can be overlooked as a juvenile *flava*. All wagtails walk and run about on the ground hunting



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insects, and frequent irrigated cropland, and grass meadows near water, though the last species is a bird of shady forest streams and is found in the eastern parts only. The generic name is derived from the habit of wagging tail up and down all the time.

It is in similar country as inhabited by the larks that the several species of shrikes will be met with perched, however, prominently on bushes. The most common in the arider parts is the Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*. In tall grass lives the Rufousbacked Shrike *L. schach* and babool groves are inhabited by the smaller Baybacked Shrike *L. vittatus* a partial migrant. A couple of other species visit us in winter. The Black Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis* is a common resident widely distributed and found in close association with Man while the Whitebellied Drongo *D. leucophaeus* is a bird of tall trees. Large groves are also frequented by the resplendent Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* the male flashing from tree to tree and uttering melodious whistles. Hunting among foliage of trees may be the three species of tits, small birds with thick bills and energetic manners. The best known is the Grey Tit *Parus majore*. The Whitewinged Black Tit *P. nuchalis* is a bird of dry scrub jungles while among the hill forests of the east it is likely to come across the crested Blackspotted Yellow Tit *P. xanthogenys*. The mouselike Grey Creeper *Salpornis spilonotus* has a local distribution specially around Palanpur where it may be looked for running up and down tree trunks and along the branches. The Purple Sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica* is a common garden bird but inhabits all types of countries where flowering shrubs may be found whether they are in desert or in forest. The male is a glistening purple black during the breeding season in winter and early hot season. The extremely small and non-descript Thickbilled Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile* is largely overlooked as it flits about large trees where also may be seen in flocks the attractive and confinding White eye *Zosterops palpebrosa* bright green above, with yellow on the chin and vent and a distinct white eye ring.

The House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* is now totally associated with Men and needs no introduction, though its more shy cousin the Yellowthroated Sparrow *Petronia xanthocollis* is less familiar since it does not enter houses though inhabits tall trees around them. The Baya *Ploceus philippinus* is well known on account of its intricately woven nest hung down wells and at ends of palm fronds in tall grass and wet vegetation.



The bird is gregarious at all times and during the monsoon rains when it breeds the male develops a bright yellow crown and breast. The very small Whitethroated Munia *Lonchura malabarica* builds a ball-shaped nest of grass blades in hedges and thick shrubs. The attractive Red Munia *Estrilda amadava* is likely to be found in flocks among reedbeds while the Green Munia *E. formosa* is a bird to be looked for among open forest and tangled thickets in the eastern parts of the district.

There are several species of finches and buntings which are both resident and winter visitors to the area. The commonest resident is the Striolated Bunting *Emberiza striolata* a bird of open scrub forest and broken hills, while the two species showing yellow in the plumage are met with in flocks during the winter in fields. They are the Blackheaded Bunting *E. melanocephala* and the Redheaded Bunting *E. bruniceps*. The less familiar, though common Greynecked Bunting *E. buchanani* is likely to be confused with the Striolated Bunting but is a winter visitor. It is likely that the distinctive Crested Bunting *Melophus lathami* is a resident in the hills near Abu. Both sexes have an upright crest, the male is black in colour.

The essay on the birdlife of the district may be fittingly closed by mention of the Indian Pitta *Pitta brachyura*, a brilliant bird showing green, blue and red in flight. It inhabits very shady forest glens where it quietly spends the day on the ground rummaging among fallen leaves for insects, its bright colours camouflaging among the mottling of the dark forest floor by spots of brilliant sunlight.

SNAKES

Snakes are limbless reptiles with a dry sealy skins, which they cast off periodically. Such cast-offs are called *exuvia* which are used by some people for some medicinal purposes. Snakes do not have ear-drum as amphibians, other reptiles, bird and mammals have. Nevertheless, they are sensitive to sound waves passing through the soil. The tongue is bifid and quivers in and out through the loose opening of the lower jaw. Moreover, certain depressions, between the nostrils and eyes of some snakes are very sensitive to infra-red radiations and they can detect very minute temperature differences. Endowed with such qualities, the snakes can easily sense the presence of other animals. The jaw of the snakes are constructed in such a way that they can open their mouths very wide and can swallow large preys.



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In the district, both poisonous as well as non-poisonous snakes are found. A brief account of the snakes is given below:

NON-POISONOUS SNAKES

Family : Boidae

The Indian Python (*Python molurus*) (*Ajgar*).—The python is fairly common in this area. Though mostly confined to the wooded area, it is not very uncommon in open areas. Of all the snakes, python is the largest. Its length varies from 2,000 mm. to 7,000 mm. The weight of the python varies between 70 lbs. to 250 lbs. It can climb trees and swim efficiently in water. It mainly feeds on small birds, mammals, rodents, and other animals. A large-sized python is known to devour goats and also other such large-sized animals.

The python is not a poisonous snake. It kills its prey by strangulating it with the coils of its muscular body. The body of the snake is yellow-brown in colour with oblique dark brown curving marks on it.

The Rat Snake (*Ptyas mucosus*) (*Dhaman*).—It is a non-poisonous agile snake of very common occurrence, usually found in bushes and hedges. It feeds on small birds and their eggs, frogs, lizards, rats, etc. Rodents are its favourite food and in this capacity it helps farmers. It reaches length of about 2.25 metres in males and 1.80 metres in females when full grown. Its body has yellow green colour with faint bands. The tail is slender and pointed.

The Checkered Keel-back (*Natrix piscator*) and Buff Striped Keel-back (*Natrix stolata*).—These are non-poisonous snakes usually found near water. The bodies of these snakes are greenish black in colour. These snakes feed usually on frogs, fishes and other small animals usually found near water and in humid surroundings.

John's Sand Boa (*Eryx johnii*) (*Andhali Chakran*).—The snake is of the kindred group of pythons and is seen more often. It has a light brown colour. The tail of the snake is blunt and looks similar to the front end of the body, hence there is a false belief that it has heads at both the ends of the body. It is found in bushy places as well as in dry fields. It survives on frogs, lizards and rodents. It is a non-poisonous snake.



The Sand Snake (*Psammophis leithi*)—The snake, which is of light brown colour, is sometimes observed in the district. This timid snake usually hides in bushes or in burrows and rarely comes out. It feeds on frogs and lizards and is oviparous. The length of this snake is 765 mm. in female and the male is probably smaller.

POISONOUS SNAKES

The Cobra (*Naja naja*) (*Nag*)—The length of the Cobra is about 1,800 mm. Its head is not very distinct from the neck. The snake has the characteristic hood which can be spread wide due to long erectile rib bones of the neck region. In a watchful and on-guard stance the hood is spread and the front part of the body is held upright in readiness for attack. The *nag* is a common snake with the charmers and is worshipped by many people on the Nag Panchami day of the month of Shravan.

The snake is mainly a resident of open land and field, but may also be found near human habitations. It feeds on small animals like rats, shrews, frogs, birds, etc. Its poison has strong neurotoxic effect. There is less pain, slight swelling, irritation and death is due to respiratory failure. If sufficient amount of venom is injected by this snake, the only remedy is the antivenin.

Russell's Viper (*Vipera russelli*) (*Chital*)—The length of the Russell's Viper is 1,600 mm. in female and male is slightly longer. It has a yellow brown colour with dark circular marks all over the body. The marks may also have lighter margins.

The Viper has the habit of hissing loudly and continuously, if disturbed. The snake is found in rocky and bushy regions where the colouration of the skin is in keeping with the surroundings. The chief food of this snake comprises small mammals like rats, mice, lizards and birds. This snake is very deadly poisonous.

The Common Krait (*Bungarus caeruleus*) (*Kalotaro*)—The Common Krait is a deadly poisonous snake living usually in open plains and fields. A large hexagonal row of scale in the midline on back is a peculiar feature of this snake. Its poison is also neurotoxic and its bite is almost as deadly as that of a cobra.

Its colour is steel-blue and the length is about 1,500 mm. The



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snake is nocturnal in habits. It not only eats mice but also other snakes too.

Bamboo Pit Viper (*Trimeresurus gramineus*)— As some parts of district (Danta and Ambaji Ranges) abounds in bamboo forests, this snake is commonly noticed. Its length is about 750 mm. This verdant green snake has a triangular head and three yellowish white longitudinal lines on the body, one median and two lateral. Its prehensile tail is yellowish or reddish mottled with dark hues and greyish, with some grey spots ventrally. Its head is with blackish spots on imbricate scales and there is a speckled line from eye to neck. The eyes of this snake are with golden iris and a black vertical pupil.

It prefers the bamboo vegetation or grass on which it is often seen reclining during day time. Its colour harmonises with the surroundings. It is sluggish, but when roused is capable of hissing and snapping at the victim.

The food of this snake consists of small mammals, lizards or birds. It strikes the victim and holds it till it is dead. This is a viviparous poisonous snake, whose venom is probably vasotoxic.

FISH

Banaskantha district is land locked and there are no ports in the district. Thus, the district has only inland fisheries. The development of fishery is of recent time. However, fishing was done in the past in the river Banas and its tributaries and in other water sheets including ponds and tanks.

The recent development of inland fisheries in the district is the result of the efforts made by the Department of Fisheries, Government of Gujarat. The reservoir fisheries came into prominence with the construction of multipurpose dam across the river.

Fishing Centres

Fishing is practised by the Vaghri and Muslims who live on the banks of the rivers and by other Adivasis scattered in Danta and Palanpur talukas.

Following are the fishing centres, viz.,



1. *Deesa*—A fishing centre is situated at down stream of the river Banas. In past it was a good fishing centre but its activities are now limited.

2. *Dantiwada*—The important fishing centre of the district is situated just in the vicinity of the reservoir. At present all the fishing activities are concentrated at Dantiwada, as a result of the development of lacustrine fisheries. Dantiwada is also a good fish seed production centre of Gujarat State.

Important Fisheries of District

The inland fisheries comprises mainly the lacustrine fishery of major carp. Other wild species are cat fish, minor carp, etc. Major carp especially comprises *C. catala*, *L. rohita*, and *C. mrigala*. Major carp multiplies speedily and is always available. At present 4,200 hectares are under fish culture.

Dantiwada reservoir was built across the river Banas at the village Dantiwada in 1966. The Department of Fisheries took keen interest in utilizing this reservoir for development of fisheries. Now it has become one of the best lacustrine fishery centres in the State.

Exploration of fishery resources has been carried out by the department, while exploitation has been entrusted to co-operative bodies. Specieswise production of fish is given in the Statement 1.3 given below :

STATEMENT 1.3

Specieswise Fish Catch at Dantiwada Reservoir

(IN KGS.)

Year		Catla	Rohu	Mrigal	Calbasu	M. seengal	Wallago attu.	Misce- llaneous	Total weight
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1970-71	..	...	31,136	22,283	1,622	13,576	5,591	2,193	76,401
1971-72	..	650	25,591	20,498	1,572	17,914	5,990	3,349	75,564
1972-73	..	784	48,720	38,102	2,090	28,058	7,630	9,694	1,35,078

Source :

The Commissioner of Fisheries, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.



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Fish Production, Export and Local Consumption, etc.

As stated earlier, exploitation of the fish from reservoir is carried-out by the co-operative body and the department charges only the royalty of fish caught by them. The fish is marketed in fresh condition to Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, Agra, etc. but not outside the country. The value given in the Statement I.4 is the royalty realised by the department and not the market price.

STATEMENT I.4

Specieswise Fish Catch at Banaskantha District

Year.	Total Production		Local Consumption		Export	
	Quantity M. tonnes	Value Rs.	Quantity M. tonnes	Value Rs.	Quantity M. Tonnes	Value Rs.
1970-71 ..	776	10,58,00.00	89	1,27,300.00	687	9,36,700.00
1971-72 ..	855	12,96,250.00	94	1,45,800.00	761	11,50,450.00
1972-73 ..	935	15,36,250.00	104	1,60,700.00	831	13,75,550.00

Source :
The Commissioner of Fisheries, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.

CLIMATE¹

In the hot and dry season, the heat is great and the north towards Marwad and in the west towards the Rann, it is intense. The temperature rises to 118°F in the hot season. Winters are very cold and often the temperature falls to 32°F. The rainfall in the east of the Banas ranges from 25 to 50 inches on an average. The further one goes on the western side of it, the scantier it becomes, ranging on an average from 10 to 15 inches, at Vav and Suigam. The rainfall in this area is irregular and erratic and the district suffers periodic draughts. It is no wonder if some of the parts go without rains for some years. According to 1961 census the rainfall is more in the eastern part of the district, viz., Palanpur taluka and scarce towards the western parts of the district, viz., Radhanpur and Tharad talukas.

The climate of this district is characterised by a general dryness except during the short monsoon season, and a very hot summer.

1. The Deputy Director General of Observatories, (Climatology and Geophysics), Poona.



The year may be divided into four seasons. The cold season is from December to February. This is followed by the hot season which lasts till about the middle of June. The period from mid-June to mid-September is the southwest monsoon season. Mid-September to end of October is the post-monsoon season.

Temperature

There are two meteorological observatories in the district, one at Deesa and the other at Radhanpur. While the records of Deesa observatory extend to a large number of years, the observatory at Radhanpur has only a few years of data. The records of Deesa observatory may be taken as representative of the climatological conditions prevailing in the district in general. After mid-March temperatures increase rapidly. May is the hottest month with the mean daily maximum temperature at 41.7°C (107.1°F) and mean daily minimum at 25.3°C (77.5°F). The heat in the summer season and in June before the onset of the southwest monsoon is intense and on individual days the maximum temperature may go up above 45°C (113.0°F). Dust-laden scorching winds which blow during the summer add to the discomfort. After the onset of the monsoon in the latter half of June there is appreciable drop in the day temperatures. But nights during the monsoon season are as warm as in the summer season. With the withdrawal of the monsoon by about mid-September there is an increase in the day temperature and a secondary maximum in day temperature is reached in October. However, the night temperatures rapidly decrease after the withdrawal of the monsoon. After October both the day and night temperatures decrease at a rapid rate. January is the coldest month with the mean daily maximum temperature at 28.4°C (83.1°F) and the mean daily minimum at 10.7°C (51.3°F). During the cold season the district is affected by cold waves in association with passing western disturbances. On such occasions the minimum temperature may drop down to about a degree or two below the freezing point of water. The Statement I.5 gives information about minimum and maximum temperatures of eight towns for the year 1969.



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STATEMENT I.5

Physical Aspects and Location of Towns, 1969

Sl. No.	Name of Town	Altitude (in metres)	Annual rainfall (in mm.)	Temperature (in centigrade)	
				Maximum	Minimum
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bhabhar Nava ..	39.0	152.0	*42.2	*10.7
2.	Deesa ..	136.0	575.2	44.8	5.4
3.	Juna Deesa ..	120.0	282.2	†44.8	† 5.4
4.	Kanodar ..	185.0	251.0	45.0	9.0
5.	Palanpur ..	222.0	250.2	39.0	12.0
6.	Radhanpur ..	19.5	162.0	42.2	10.7
7.	Tharad ..	33.0	87.1	†44.8	†5.4
8.	Varahi ..	35.0	135.6	*42.2	*10.7

NOTE :

Rainfall and temperature data for Deesa have been obtained from the Director General of Observatories, Meteorological Department, Government of India. For the rest of the towns the data have been obtained locally.

* As the temperature figures for Bhabhar Nava and Varahi towns are not available, the temperature figures of Radhanpur which is the nearest town have been adopted.

† Similarly, the temperature for Juna Deesa and Tharad not being available, those of Deesa have been adopted for these towns.

Source :

Census 1971, Gujarat, Series-5, District Census Handbook 1971, Banaskantha District, Part X-A & B., p. 22.

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Deesa was 50.0°C (122.0°F) on 15th May, 1912. The lowest minimum was 2.2°C (28.0°F) recorded on 15th January, 1935. The Statement I.6 gives data about maximum temperature at District Headquarters for the year 1969.

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STATEMENT I.6

Maximum and Minimum Temperature At District Headquarter's Station in 1969

(IN CENTIGRADE)

Sl. No. 1.	Month 2	Minimum 3	Maximum 4
(1)	January	4	31
(2)	February	3	32
(3)	March	16	40
(4)	April	18	42
(5)	May	22	44
(6)	June	23	41
(7)	July	22	40
(8)	August	23	37
(9)	September	20	42
(10)	October	19	40
(11)	November	10	38
(12)	December	8	33

NOTE :

Figures of temperature by mean maximum and mean minimum are not available for this district as such only the maximum and minimum figures for the year 1969 are shown. Temperature figures for 1970 are not available.

Source :

Census 1971, Series-5, Gujarat, *District Census Handbook 1971, Banaskantha District, Part X-C-1, p. 12.*

Humidity

Except during the monsoon season when the humidity is between 60 per cent. and 85 per cent. On the average humidity is low during the year. The driest part of the year is the cold and summer seasons when the relative humidities in the afternoons are less than 30 per cent.

Rainfall

Before examining the total rainfall figures for the entire district, it would be better if rainfall data gathered from Annual Administration Reports of the States and other sources are examined. In Palan-



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pur State for instance the total rainfall during the year 1941-42 was 26 inches 45 cents. In 1944-45 the rainfall was 37 inches 68 cents. The average for the last 5 years that is from 1940-41 to 1944-45 in the State was 32 inches 85 cents.¹ The annual rainfall at Radhanpur in 1943-44 was 45.59 inches while in 1944-45 it was 20.97 inches. The average of the last 5 years in the State ending with the year 1944-45 was 25.33 inches. At Varahi the respective figures were 36.87", 23.02", and 17.47" respectively². The rainfall figures are available for the Danta State. For the years 1927-28 it was 51.20", while in 1928-29 it was 29.33". The average of last 5 years ending with the year 1928-29 was 38.65³.

In the book entitled "*Gujarat Ek Darshan*" the rainfall data has been given for the Deesa station of the district from 1881 to 1949.⁴ In 1881 the total rainfall at Deesa was 38 inches. In 1901 it was 7 inches. In 1920 it was 14 inches, while in 1923 the rainfall was very less (6 inches), in 1931 it was 27 inches. In 1941 it was 25 inches. Finally in 1949 it was 16 inches. It would thus be observed from the data given in the book that there are generally large variations in the year to year rainfall at Deesa. This is probably due to the fact that rainfall depends on the movement of depressions in the Bay of Bengal. It can also be concluded that famine and scarcity conditions periodically occurred in the district due to scanty rainfall. The rainfall is not evenly distributed in the district. There is more than average rainfall in Danta, Palanpur and Vadgam talukas of the district. This rainfall is probably due to the effect of the southern end of the Aravalli hills and forest areas. In the western Banaskantha, the rainfall decreases considerably. This is due to the fact that the depth of monsoon current decreases also. The rainfall in the east of the Banas river ranges from 25 to 50 inches on an average. The farther one goes on the western side of it, the scantier it becomes, ranging on an average from 10 to 15 inches, at Vav and Suigam. The rainfall in this area is irregular and erratic and district suffers periodic draughts. It is no wonder if some of the parts go without rains for some years. According to the 1961 Census the rainfall is more in the eastern part of the district, viz., Palanpur taluka and scarce towards the western parts of the district, viz., Radhanpur and Tharad talukas.

1. *Summary Report of the Administration of the Palanpur State* for the year 1944-45, p.57.
2. *Administration Report of the Radhanpur State* for the year 1944-45, p. 22.
3. *Report on the Administration of the Danta State* for the year ending 31st March, 1929, p. 29.
4. RAJYAGOR S. B. (DR.), *Gujarat Ek Darshan*, Vadodara, (1969), p. 522.



Talukawise Rainfall in Banaskantha District, 1972-73

Sr. No.	Name of Taluka	Rainfall in mm.
1.	Palanpur	481.0
2.	Deesa	411.1
3.	Dhanera	270.2
4.	Danta	712.3
5.	Deodar	484.0
6.	Radhanpur	277.2
7.	Varahi	342.0
8.	Vav	212.5
9.	Tharad	329.4
10.	Kankrej	464.9
11.	Vadgam	357.0

Source : Banaskantha District Panchayat, Project Report.

The table showing talukawise rainfall figures gives correct idea of the areas receiving more rainfall and scanty rainfall. From the table it would be observed that it was Danta taluka which received 712.3 mm. of rainfall in 1972-73. Next was Deodar which received 484.0 mm, followed by Palanpur (481.0), Kankrej (446.9 mm), Deesa (441.1 mm) and Vadgam (357.0 mm). The taluka which received scanty rainfall were Dhanera (270.2 mm) and Vav (212.5 mm).

Records of rainfall in the district are available for 4 stations for periods ranging from 71 to 85 years. The details of the rainfall at these stations and for the district as a whole are given in Statement I.7. The average annual rainfall in the district is 597.4 mm (23.52"). The rainfall in the district increases in general from the northwest towards the southeast and varies from 507.6 mm. (19.98") at Tharad near the north-western border to 750.7 mm (29.55") at Palanpur near the eastern border. About 95 per cent of the annual rainfall in the district is received during the monsoon months June to September, the rainfall mainly occurring during the two months July and August, and July being the rainiest month. The variation in the rainfall from the year to year in the district is very large. In the 50 year period, 1901 to 1950, 1926 was the year with highest annual rainfall amounting to 208 per cent of the normal. The lowest annual rainfall which was only 25 per cent of the normal occurred in 1911.



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During these 50 years the annual rainfall in the district was less than 80 per cent of the normal in 20 years. Two and three consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred twice each. Even four consecutive years of rainfall less than 80 per cent of the normal occurred once during 1901 to 1904. Two consecutive years of low rainfall were recorded five times at Palanpur and 4 consecutive years were recorded twice at Tharad and once each at Deesa and Radanpur. It will be seen from Statement I.8 that the annual rainfall in the district was between 300 to 800 mm. (11.81'' to 31.50'') in 31 years out of 50.





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DISTRICT GAZETTEER : BANASKANTHA

STATEMENT

Normals and Extremes

Station	No. of Years of data	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Palanpur	48 a	2.3	5.1	1.3	1.3	10.7	72.9	297.2	252.5
	b	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.8	3.0	11.5	10.9
Tharad	50 a	3.1	3.1	2.3	1.3	5.3	38.1	204.7	169.9
	b	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	1.5	7.2	6.5
Deesa	47 a	2.5	4.3	1.5	0.8	9.4	48.0	244.6	213.1
	b	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.6	2.5	10.1	9.2
Radhanpur	50 a	1.3	2.0	1.3	0.5	6.6	34.8	237.2	147.3
	b	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.5	1.9	8.8	6.8
Palanpur	a	2.3	3.6	1.6	1.0	3.0	48.5	245.9	195.7
(District)	b	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.6	2.2	9.4	8.3

(a) Normal rainfall in mm. (b) Average number of rainy days.

*Based on all available data upto 1960. **Years are given in brackets.

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I.7

of Rainfall

Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual	Highest annual rain- fall as % of normal and Year*	Lowest annual rain- fall as % of normals and Year**	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours Amount mm.	Date
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
93.0	9.1	3.3	2.0	750.7	211 (1907)	21 (1911)	409.7	1893 Sep. 16
4.3	0.7	0.2	0.2	32.4				
67.8	7.9	2.3	1.8	507.6	287 (1926)	22 (1923)	307.3	1905 Jul. 25
2.6	0.3	0.2	0.1	19.7				
85.3	8.9	1.8	1.3	621.5	247 (1907)	25 (1914)	349.5	1893 Sep. 16
3.8	0.6	0.1	0.1	27.7				
68.8	6.9	1.5	1.8	510.0	233 (1927)	20 (1925)	418.1	1905 Jul. 25
3.1	0.4	0.1	0.2	22.6				
78.7	8.2	2.2	1.7	597.4	208 (1926)	25 (1911)		
3.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	25.4				

(days with rain of 2.5 mm. or more).



STATEMENT I.8

Frequency of Annual Rainfall in the District

(Data 1901—1950)

Range in mm.	No. of years	Range in mm.	No. of years
101—200	3	701—800	5
201—300	4	801—900	5
301—400	8	901—1000	1
401—500	7	1001—1100	2
501—600	4	1101—1200	3
601—700	7	1201—1300	1

On an average there are 25 rainy days (i.e. days with rainfall of 2.5 mm—10 cents or more) in a year in the district. This number varies from 20 at Tharad to 32 at Palanpur.

The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the district was 418.1 mm (16.46") at Radhanpur on 25th July, 1905.

Cloudiness

In the monsoon season the skies are generally moderately to heavily clouded. During the rest of the year the skies are mostly clear or lightly clouded. During the cold season cloudy weather prevails in association with passing western disturbances, for brief spells of a day or two.

Winds

Winds are generally light to moderate with some increase in strength in the latter part of summer and early part of the monsoon season. In the period April to September, winds blow mostly from directions between south and west, south to westerlies predominating. Winds are light and variable in direction in October, easterlies and north-easterlies being more common in the mornings and westerlies and north-westerlies in the afternoons. From November to March, while morning winds are mostly from directions between north and east the afternoon winds are generally from directions between west and north.



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Velocity of Winds per Hour¹

The data about velocity of winds have been compiled in the book entitled *Gujarat Ek Darshan* on the basis of 60 years average. Month to month variations have been given for Deesa station. The following table shows the velocity of winds per hour in mile.

Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.
6.0	5.9	6.0	6.4	9.1	11.4	10.5	8.4
Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Average			
5.6	4.6	4.0	5.4	7.0			

Special Weather Phenomena

Some of the depressions during July and August, originating in the Bay of Bengal move in a westerly or west-north-westerly direction and reach the district or its neighbourhood during the last stages of their travel and cause heavy rain and gusty winds. Thunderstorms occur in the latter half of the summer and early part of the southwest monsoon season.

Statements I.9, I.10 and I.11 give the temperature and humidity, mean wind speed and special weather phenomena respectively for Deesa.

1. RAJYAGOR S. B. (DR.), *Gujarat Ek Darshan*, Vadodara (1969), p. 520.



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STATEMENT I.9
Normals of Temperature and Relative Humidity
(Deesa)

(IN CENTIGRADE)

Month	Mean Daily Maximum Tempe- rature	Mean Daily Minimum Tempe- rature	Highest Maximum ever recorded		Lowest Minimum ever recorded		Relative Humidity	
			Oc 4	Date 5	Oc 6	Date 7	0830*% 8	1730*% 9
January	28.4	10.7	35.6	1932 Jan. 31	-2.2	1935 Jan. 15	45	26
February	30.3	12.4	40.6	1953 Feb. 28	-0.6	1929 Feb. 1	43	28
March	35.5	17.2	46.1	1892 Mar. 28	5.6	1905 Mar. 1	41	25
April	39.8	21.8	46.3	1958 Apr. 26	10.0	1905 Apr. 1	44	20
May	41.7	25.3	50.0	1912 May 15	17.8	1920 May 28	60	29
June	39.2	27.1	48.3	1897 June 9	20.1	1961 June 26	68	42
July	33.8	25.7	43.9	1902 July 8	19.4	1881 July 15	80	69
August	31.8	24.4	41.1	1902 Aug. 21	21.1	1912 Aug. 30	83	69
September	34.0	23.5	42.2	1951 Sep. 30	17.2	1912 Sep. 24	77	57
October	36.4	19.4	42.8	1925 Oct. 16	10.6	1889 Oct. 22	58	33
November	33.6	14.4	39.4	1901 Nov. 3	5.0	1938 Nov. 30	44	28
December	29.9	11.2	36.1	1935 Dec. 1	1.7	1903 Dec. 27	46	27
Annual	34.5	19.4					57	38

* Hours—Indian Standard Time.

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STATEMENT I.10
Mean Wind Speed in Km/hr.
(Deesa)

Jan. 1	Feb. 2	Mar. 3	Apr. 4	May 5	June 6	July 7	Aug. 8	Sep. 9	Oct. 10	Nov. 11	Dec. 12	Annual 13
9.8	9.7	9.7	10.3	14.8	18.7	16.7	13.7	9.2	7.4	8.2	8.7	11.4

STATEMENT I.11
Special Weather Phenomena
(Deesa)

Mean No. of days with 1	Jan. 2	Feb. 3	Mar. 4	Apr. 5	May 6	June 7	July 8	Aug. 9	Sep. 10	Oct. 11	Nov. 12	Dec. 13	Annual 14
Thunder ..	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.9
Hail ..	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dust-Storm ..	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Squall ..	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fog ..	0.7	1.6	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	4.4

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ANNEXURE I

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1951 Territorial Units Constituting the Present set-up of District and each Taluka/Mahal (Only those names/areas which have undergone changes since 1951 have been shown below)

District Taluka/Mahal	1951 territorial units	Brief description	Details of gain in territories		Brief description	Details of loss in territories		Net area Gain(+) Loss (-)	
			Area			Area		Sq. Miles	Sq. Km.
			Sq. Miles	Sq. Km.		Sq. Miles	Sq. Km.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Banaskantha District	As in 1951	(1) (i) Radhanpur taluka except 10 villages transferred from Mahesana district (ii) Santalpur taluka trans- ferred from Mahesana district	229.4 393.0	594.1 1017.9	Abu Road taluka transferred to Sirohi district of State Rajasthan	303.8	786.6	+318.6	+825.2
Kankrej	As in 1951	Bhadrawadi village (Sl. No. 11) transferred from Deodar taluka	N. A.	N.A.	..	..	..	N. A.	N. A.
Deodar	As in 1951	..	..	..	Bhadrawadi village (Sl. No. 11) transfer- red to Kankrej taluka	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.
Radhanpur	As in 1951	(2) Entire taluka except 10 villages transferred from Mahesana district ..	229.4	594.1	..	..	..	+229.4	+594.1
Santalpur	As in 1951	Entire taluka transferred from Mahesana district ..	393.0	1,017.9	..	..	..	+ 393.0	+1,017.9
N. A.=Not available									

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ANNEXURE I—contd.
Villages transferred from and to Banaskantha District

Symbol No. given in Annexure I	Name of village	Sl. No. in 1951 Census Handbook	Area (Wherever) available)
1	2	3	4
1	Dadar	16	3.8
2	Kharcharia	35	2.0
3	Ranawada	52	5.0
4	Mandvi	40	8.8
5	Bhanathal	9	2.0
6	Gochnath	22	8.3
7	Dawoodpur	17	2.5
8	Banri	5	2.5
9	Bismillabad	11	1.8
10	Chandarani As against (ii)	14	2.8

**Area for 1951 and 1961 for those Municipal Towns which have
undergone changes in Areas since 1951 Census**

District	Municipal Town	Area in Sq. Miles		Remarks
		1951	1961	
1	2	3	4	5
Banaskantha	Radhanpur	1.00	4.00	Jurisdictional Change
	Deesa	3.50	5.33	Jurisdictional Change

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ANNEXURE
District/Taluka/Mahal showing 1951 Population
(Change In Area the Populations)

District/Taluka/ Mahal 1	Area in 1961		1961 Population 4
	Sq. Miles 2	Sq. Km. 3	
Banaskantha District ×	4,648.4	12,039.9	996,144
Palanpur	499.6	1,293.9	177,032
Danta	282.1	730.6	52,411
Vadgam	220.2	570.3	90,247
Dhanera	455.9	1,180.8	89,261
Deesa	562.1	1,455.8	140,887
Kankrej	321.7	833.2	93,632
Vav	637.5	1,651.2	85,490
Tharad	523.6	1,356.1	83,736
Deodar†	392.3	1,016.1	87,293
Radhanpur@	230.0	595.8	51,839
Santalpur+	523.6	1,356.1	44,316

NOTE : × (1) Under Bombay Government Resolution R. D. No. T. L.C.—1254-R, dated 15-4-1958,

(a) Radhanpur taluka (268.6) Minus the following 10 Villages was transferred from Mhesana District to Banaskantha District. Dadar (3.8), Kharcharia (2.0) Ranawada, (5.0), Mandvi (8.8), Bhamathal (2.0), Gochnath (8.3), Dawoodpur (2.5), Babri (2.5), Bismillabad (1.5) and Chandarani (2.8). (b) Santalpur taluka (393.0) was transferred from Maheasana district to Banaskantha district.

(2) Under Bombay Government P. and S. D. Circular No. SRI-RCR-11456 T-dated 12-10-1956 Abu Road taluka (303.8) was transferred from Banaskantha district to Rajasthan State.

† Bhadrawadi Village was transferred from Deodar taluka of Banaskantha district to Kankrej taluka of the same district.

@ Under Bombay Government Resolution, R. D. No. T. L. C.-1254-R, dated 15-4-1958, Radhanpur taluka (229.4) Minus 10 Villages as above was transferred from Maheasana district to Banaskantha district.

+ Under Bombay Government Resolution, R. D. No. T. L. C. 1254-R, dated 15-4-1958, Santalpur taluka (393.0) was transferred from Mehsana district to Banaskantha district.



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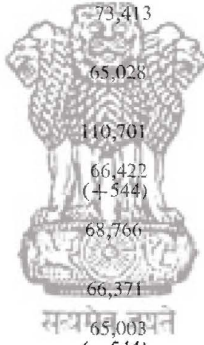
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II
according to Territorial Jurisdiction in 1951
involved in Those Changes)

Area in 1951		1951 population according to jurisdiction prevailing in 1951.	Population in 1951 adjusted to jurisdiction of 1961.	Net increase in or decrease between col. 7 and col. 8
Sq. Miles	Sq. Km.			
5	6	7	8	9
3,986.0 (+ 662.6)	10,323.8 (+ 1,716.1)	748,796 (+ 25,098)	773,894	+25,098
531.0 (—31.4)	1,375.3 (—81.4)	139,994	139,994	..
342.0 (—59.9)	885.8 (—155.2)	40,669	40,669	—
215.0 (+ 5.2)	556.8 (+ 13.5)	73,413	73,413	—
433.0 (+ 22.9)	1,121.5 (+ 59.3)	65,028	65,028	..
621.0 (—58.9)	1,608.4 (—152.6)	110,701	110,701	..
304.0 (+ 17.7)	787.4 (+ 45.8)	66,422 (+ 544)	66,966	+ 544
493.0 (+ 144.5)	1,276.9 (+ 374.3)	68,766	68,766	..
421.0 (+ 102.6)	1,090.4 (+ 265.7)	66,371	66,371	..
323.0 (+ 69.3)	836.6 (+ 179.5)	65,003 (—544)	64,459	—544
269.0 (—39.0)	696.8 (—101.0)	45,691 (+ 4,341)	41,350	—4,341
393.0 (+ 130.6)	1,017.9 (+ 338.2)	36,177	36,177	..



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DISTRICT GAZETTEER : BANASKANTHA

ANNEXURE II

A list of trees, shrubs, climbers and grasses occurring in the forest areas of the district.

Botanical old Name 1	New name 2	Local name 3
TREES :		
<i>Anogeissus pendula</i>		Kala Dhav
<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i>		Safed Dhav
<i>Aegle marmelos</i>		Bili
<i>Albizia odoratissima</i>		Kalo Siris
<i>Acacia catechu</i>		Khair
<i>Acacia eburnea</i>		Marmat
<i>Acacia arabica</i>		Baval
<i>Acacia senegal</i>		Gorad
<i>Acacia suma</i>		Gorad
<i>Acacia leucophloea</i>		Aniyar
<i>Azadirachta indica</i>		Limdo
<i>Butea frondosa</i>		Khakhar
<i>Boswellia serrata</i>		Salada
<i>Bombax malabaricum</i>		Simlo
<i>Cassia fistula</i>		Garmal
<i>Dalbergia latifolia</i>		Sisam
<i>Dalbergia paniculata</i>		Pahi
<i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i>		Timru
<i>Emblica officinalis</i>		Amla
<i>Erythrina suberosa</i>		Pangre bhangre
<i>Eugenia jambolana</i>	<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	Jaman, Jambu
<i>Euphorbia nivulia</i>		Thor
<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>		Vad
<i>Ficus glomerata</i>	<i>Ficus racemosa</i>	Gula
<i>Ficus religiosa</i>		Piplo
<i>Garuga pinnata</i>		Kakad
<i>Holoptelea integrifolia</i>		Kanaji Papdi

Source :
Divisional Forest Officer, Banaskantha

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ANNEXURE II—contd.

Botanical old Name	New name	Local name
1	2	3
<i>Gmelina arborea</i>		Shivan
<i>Grewia tiliacfolia</i>		Dhaman
<i>Holarrhena antidysenterica</i>		Kudi
<i>Lxora parviflora</i>		Novri
<i>Lagerstroemia parviflora</i>		Kakadiyo
<i>Mallotus philippensis</i>		Kamala
<i>Mimusops hexandra</i>	<i>Manilkara hexandra</i>	Rayana
<i>Grinda tinctoria</i>		Aledi
<i>Odina woodier</i>	<i>Lannea grandis</i>	Mayano
<i>Ougeinia dalbergioides</i>		Tanach
<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i>		Khajuti
<i>Pongamia glabra</i>	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i>	Karanj
<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>		Vilayati baval
<i>Prosopis specigera</i>		Shami, Khijda
<i>Soyimida febrifuga</i>		Royan
<i>Stephegyne parvifolia</i>	<i>Mitragyna parvifolia</i>	Kalam
<i>Sterculia urens</i>		Kadayo
<i>Tamarindus indica</i>		Khati amlī
<i>Tectona grandis</i>		Sagado
<i>Terminalia tomentosa</i>		Sagado
<i>Wrightia tinctoria</i>		Dudhi
<i>Wrightia tomentosa</i>		Dudhi
<i>Zizyphus jujuba</i>		Bor
<i>Saccopetalum tomentosum</i>	<i>Miliusa tomentosa</i>	Himbhie
<i>Terminalia bellirica</i>		Baheda
BAMBOOS :		
<i>Dendrocalamus strictus</i>		Manvel
SHRUBS :		
<i>Alangium lamarkii</i>	<i>Alangium salvifolium</i>	Ankal
<i>Acacia jacquemontii</i>		
<i>Balanites roxbughii</i>	<i>Balanites aegyptica</i>	Rato baval Tal baval Ingori, Hingor Kordo
<i>Capparis aphylla</i>		



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ANNEXURE II—concl.

Botanical old Name 1	New name 2	Local name 3
<i>Capparis sepiaria</i>		Kanthar
<i>Carissa carandas</i>		Karamdas
<i>Zizyphus xylopyrus</i>		Ghatbor
<i>Trema croniomaxalia</i>		Kargal Kenger
<i>Dichrostachya cinerea</i>		Velantaro
<i>Gymnosporia montana</i>		Vikalo
<i>Helicteres isora</i>		Mardasing or Atedi
<i>Nyctanthes arbor—tristis</i>		Parijatak
<i>Randia dumitorum</i>	<i>Randia spinosa</i>	Mindhal
CLIMBERS :		
<i>Cocculus villosus</i>		Panwel
<i>Cocculus laeba</i>		Panwel
GRASSES :		
<i>Conchrus bifterus</i>		Jangli samo
<i>Heteropogon contortus</i>		Sukali
<i>Panicum colonum</i>		Jinjava
<i>Panicum flavidum</i>		Ranikodra
<i>Polytoca barbata</i>		Garadu
<i>Themeda ciliate</i>		Bhatdu



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PART II

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

PRE-HISTORY

Archaeological explorations in the district have brought to light some prehistoric sites yielding stone tools of the Middle Stone Age and the Late Stone Age, but the account of the results of the explorations is not published in detail.

However, it is learnt that excavations at Anguria and Rampura in Santalpur taluka have brought to light microliths-blades, scrapers, points, fluted tools, etc. Jekheda and Dambhad villages of the same taluka have yielded Harappan remains of proto-historic times.¹

Gray ware discovered at Arjan sar-no-Dhod in Radhanpur taluka² indicates a Pre-Mauryan settlement.

EARLY HISTORY (*Circa 322 B.C. -- 942 A.D.*)

Literary and epigraphic sources hardly throw any light on the early history of this district in particular. But it may be assumed that the district was ruled by the same successive dynasties that ruled over other parts of Gujarat. Gujarat was a province under the Mauryan empire from the time of Chandragupta Maurya (*circa 322-298 B.C.*) to at least that of Ashoka Maurya (*circa 272-232 B.C.*) or probably even Samprati (*circa 200 B.C.*)³. Thereafter it might have passed under the sway of the Indo-Greek kings, as attested by the circulation of the coins of Menander and Appollodotus II in Gujarat for a pretty long period.⁴

The Western Kshatrapas ruled over Gujarat for more than three hundred years. King Nahapana, who belonged to the Kshaharata family, ruled prior to the establishment of the Kardamaka dynasty in or before Saka Era 11 (89-90 A.D.)⁵. The years 41-46 given in the

1-2. Information kindly supplied by the Archaeological Department, Gujarat State.

3. SANKALIA H. D., *Archaeology of Gujarat*, (1941), p. 7; MAJMUDAR M. R., (Ed), *Chronology of Gujarat*; (1960), pp. 29 ff.

4. SANKALIA H. D. *op. cit.*, pp. 8 f.; MAJMUDAR M. R., *op. cit.*, pp. 41 ff.

5. "Andhau Inscription of Chastana, Saka 11" *Journal of Ancient Indian History*, Vol. II, Nos. 1-2 pp. 104 f.



inscriptions of his time are, therefore, now reckoned as his regnal years¹. His reign is accordingly dated prior to 89-90 A.D. His son-in-law Rushabhadatta, made grants of gold and erected steps on the bank of the Barnasa river². As Nahapana's kingdom extended from Pushkar (near Ajmer) in the north (Rajasthan) to Nasik in the south, the river is identifiable either with the Banas, a tributary of the Chambal or with the Banas, which flows through this district and bears its name. The name of the river is given as Varnasa or Parnasa in the Puranas³. Alongwith other parts of Anartta, this district remained under the Western Kshatrapas upto about 400 A.D. Several sites in the Radhanpur⁴ and Santalpur talukas⁵ have yielded sherds of Painted Red Ware, which are assigned to this period.

The Guptas were the next sovereigns, who ruled over Gujarat upto about Gupta Era 148 (467-68 A.D.). Thereafter a large portion of the mainland of Gujarat formed a part of the Maitraka kingdom (circa 470-788 A.D.) of Valabhi. The known copper-plate records of these kings contain no reference to any place in this district, as it was probably located in the Anandapura territory, which was an appanage of Valabhi⁶.

Shortly after the fall of Valabhi in 788 A.D., Vanaraja, the son of the Chapotkata (Chavda) king Jayashikharin of Panchasar (Mahesana district), established a new kingdom at Anahilwad Patan (Mahesana district⁷). Thakkura Lahara, a commander of Vanaraja, built a temple of Vindhyaivasini at Sandathal⁸, which is identified with Santhli in the Radhanpur taluka of this district. Kakara, a place

1. *Gujarat-no Rajkiya ane Sanskritik Itihas*, Vol. II, (Maurya-kala-thi Gupta-kala), p. 11 ff.
2. *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. VII, pp. 57 ff. and Vol. VIII, pp. 78 ff.
3. JOSHI U. J., *Puranoman Gujarat*, (1946), pp. 129f.
4. For instance, Kunsela, Juna Dhod, Jhalar-no Dhod, Mahadev-no-timbo and Velara. (Information kindly supplied by the Arch. Deptt., Gujarat State.).
5. For instance, Chandal-no Dhod, Datrona, Bakutara, Boralino Dhod, Santalpur, Sidhda and Varahi, (Information kindly supplied by the Arch. Deptt., Gujarat State).
6. HIUEN TSIANG, *Buddhist Records of the Western World* (Eng. trans. by Beal, 1884), Vol. II p. 268.
7. Bardic tradition dates the death of Jayashikharin in V. S. 752 (696 A. D.) and the Coronation of Vanaraja in V.S. 802 (746 A.D.). But a critical study of the reference to the contemporary Pratihara kings of Kanauj leads us to date the events about a Century later, as king Ama (Nagabhata II) who slew Jayasikharin in war reigned in Circa 792-834 A.D., and Mihira Bhoja from whom Vanaraja recovered his ancestral territory reigned in circa 836-885 A. D. (K.M. Munshi, the *Glory that was Gurjaradesa*, Part III, pp. 55 ff; SHASTRI H. G., *Anahilwad-no-Chavada Vamsa*, *Svadhyaaya*, Vol. V, pp. 503 ff.
8. H. JACOBI (Ed.) *Sanatkumaracaritam* (milincheu, 1921), p. 152.



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associated with an early adventure of Vanaraja,¹ is represented by modern Kakar in the Kankrej taluka. King Ahada a descendent of Vanaraja is said to have built temples of Agdesvara, and Kantesvari at Karkarapuri² which seems to be the same as Kakara. From these references, it appears that the Banaskantha district formed the part of the Chapotkata kingdom, which lasted upto 942 A.D.

A magnificent group of the images of the seven (*Sapta*) Matrikas was discovered in a ruined temple near Vadaval in Deesa taluka³. It is assigned to the early ninth century⁴. The group consists of the images of Brahmi, Mahesvari, Kaumari, Aindri, Varahi, Vaishnavi and Chamunda. It was flanked by images of Ganesa and Bhairava on either side. The temple also contained old images of Siva holding a *vina* and Parvati practising penance amidst Five Fires. The latter is dated *circa* 800 A.D.⁵.

Chaulukya Period (942-1304 A.D.)

The Chapotkata dynasty was succeeded by the Chaulukya dynasty in 942 A.D. When Mularaja I, founder of the new dynasty, established his power in the Sarasvata Mandala, with Anahillapataka as his capital. The Mandala was divided into Pathakas. Though the Sarasvati Valley formed its central part, the Mandala extended upto the Sabarmati river in the east and the Banas river in the north-west.

The Muleshvara temple at Padan (Vav taluka) is ascribed to king Mularaja I (942-997 A. D.). It contains a unique sculpture of four armed Vinayaka represented as a *dvarapala*⁶.

The old temple at Kasara (Kankrej taluka) is well-known for its peculiar plan. It consists of three shrines attached to a common *mandapa* (pillared hall). The central shrine, facing east, was dedicated to Shiva while the adjoining shrines in the north and the south

1. MERUTUNGA, *Prabandha-Chintamani* (Ed. by Jinavijayaji, Shantiniketan, 1933). pp. 12 f.
2. *Ibid.*, p. 15.
3. K. V. SOUNDARA RAJAN AND R.T. PARIKH, "A Magnificent Saptamatrika group, and Parvati from Vadaval, (North Gujarat), Bulletin of the 'Prince of Wales Museum of Western India' No. 7, (Bombay, 1964, pp. 46 ff.)
- 4-5. Shri R. T. Parikh assigns all these sculptures to the latter half of the 7th Century in a later article (*Kumar*, No. 528 Ahmedabad, 1967, p. 74).
6. PARIKH R. T., 'An Image of Vinayaka from Padan, *Svadyaya*, Vol. III, (Baroda, 1970), pp.83 ff.



were dedicated to Vishnu and Brahma respectively. Like the Neelakantha temple at Sunak (Mahesana district), it appears to be earlier than the Sun-temple (1026-27 A.D.) at Modhera (Mahesana district)¹.

The reign of Bhimadeva I (1022-1064 A.D.) is remarkable for the ascendancy of the Chaulukya power.

We come across a concrete reference to a part of this district in a copper-plate inscription of the Chaulukya dynasty. The Palanpur Plates of king Bhimadeva Solanki I record that in V. S. 1120 (1063 A.D.), the king issued a grant of land situated near the village of Varunavada in the Dhanada-ahara-pathaka² Dhanada, the head-quarter of the Dhanada ahara and the Dhanada pathaka, is represented by modern Dhandha³ in the Palanpur taluka. Varunavada is identified with Varanavada⁴ in the Vadgam taluka. It lies about 8 km. south of Dhandha. The particulars of the boundaries mention the villages of Karusna, Sabali and Chhindriyala. These places are not identified yet but they can be identified with Karasanpura, Sabalpura and Chhaniana respectively, all located in the Vadgam taluka, within a short distance from Varanavada. The Dhanada-ahara-pathaka formed the northernmost part of the Sarasvata Mandala, the home-province of the Chaulukya kingdom⁵. Probably it covered the eastern portion of the Banaskantha district and lay between the Banas river in the west and the Sarasvati river in the east.

The reign of Bhimadeva I marked a glorious period in the art and architecture of the Chaulukya kingdom, the Sun-temple at Modhera and the Vimalavasahi at Abu-Delwada being its exquisite extant examples.

The temple of Kumbheshvara near Kumbharia (Danta taluka), too, seems to have been built during this period. It is lavishly carved externally and internally. Its pillars and doors are fashioned like those of the Sun-temple and the Vimala-vasahi mentioned above.⁶

1. BURGESS AND COUSENS, *Architectural Antiquities of Northern Gujarat*, (London, 1903, pp. 105. 107); SOMPURA K. F., *Structural Temples of Gujarat* (Ahmedabad, 1968), pp. 104 f.
2. DIKSHIT K. N., *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. XXI, p. 171 ff. The editor read 'Varanavada' and 'Varnasavali', but the photograph of the plates indicate that the place-names must be read 'Varunavada', and 'Karusna sabali' respectively,—SHASTRI H. G.
- 3-4. SANKALIA H. D., *Studies in the Historical and Cultural Geography and Ethnography of Gujarat* (Poona 1949), p. 36.
5. *Ibid.*, p. 35.
6. MUNI VISHALVIJAYAJI, *Kumbhariaji Tirtha* (Bhavnagar, 1961), pp. 58 f., DAVE K.B., *Ambica, Kotesvara and Kumbharia* (Baroda, 1963), pp. 44 f; SOMPURA K. F., *Structural Temples of Gujarat* (Ahmedabad, 1968), p. 126.



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The celebrated temple of Ambaji in this district was probably built during this period. The goddess is known as Arasuri, so named after Arasura, denoting now the hill at the south-west end of the Aravalli range, but originally the town on the spur of the hill. The place was under the Parmara dynasty of Chandravati, which lay at the foot of Mt. Abu. It is the most popular Shakta Pitha in mainland Gujarat.

The Paramara king Dhandhuka was subdued by King Bhimadeva I. Dhandhuka acknowledged the supremacy of the Chaulukya king, who appointed his minister Vimala as the Dandanayaka in the kingdom of his feudatory. The splendid marble-temple of Adinatha, popularly known as Vimala-vasahi, was built on Mt. Abu by Vimala in V. S. 1088 (1031-32 A.D.). He is also credited with the erection of a number of splendid temples at Arasura. Tradition ascribes all the present five Svetambara temples at Kumbharia to him. They are all built of marble, which is available in the quarries of the adjoining hills; but the Mahavira temple alone can be ascribed to Vimala on archaeological grounds. The pedestal of the original image of Mahavira is dated V. S. 1118 (1061-62 A.D.), while the present image was installed in V.S. 1675 (1618-19 A.D.)¹. The temple consists of a *garbha-griha*, a *gudha mandapa*, a *trika mandapa*, a *sabha mandapa*, porches and 24 *devakulikas*². The images in the *devakulikas* are dated V.S. 1140 (1083-84 A. D.) to V. S. 1148 (1091-92 A. D.)³.

The Shantinatha temple at Kumbharia bears great semblance to the Mahavira temple described above.⁴ It was definitely built before V. S. 1138 (1081-82 A. D.), when images in several *devakulikas* were consecrated⁵.

The old images of Vishnu and Surya at Vadaval near Deesa are assigned to this period⁶.

The reign of Siddharaja Jayasimha (1064-1142) is renowned for monumental works of art and architecture. The Neminatha temple at Kumbharia was probably built by Pasila, son of minister Goga of

1. MUNI VISHALVIJAYAJI, *op. cit.*, p. 43.

2. SOMPURA K. F., *op. cit.*, p. 127.

3. MUNI VISHALVIJAYAJI, *op. cit.*, pp. 120 ff.

4. SOMPURA K. F., *op. cit.*, p. 128.

5. MUNI VISHALVIJAYAJI, *op. cit.*, pp. 140 ff.

6. PARIKH R. T., 'Two Sculptures from Vadaval near Deesa, (North Gujarat)', *Journal of the Orient Institute Baroda*, Vol. X, (1960), pp. 392 ff.



Arasura, in V. S. 1193 (1136-37 A.D.); images in some *devakulikas* in its *bhamati* were consecrated in V.S. 1204 (1147-48 A.D.) to V.S. 1208 (1151-52 A.D.)¹. The original image of Neminatha was consecrated in V. S. 1193 by Vadi Devasuri, while the present image is dated V.S. 1675 (1618-19 A. D.)². The temple is the largest and loftiest among the Jain temples at Kumbharia. It is built of white marble . It consists of a *garbhagriha*, an *antarala*, a *gudha mandapa*, *trika-mandapa*, and a *sabha mandapa* flanked by 12 *devakulikas* on either side, a *nata mandapa* and a *balanaka*³.

The Parshvanatha temple at Kumbharia, too, was probably built during the reign of Siddharaj Jayasimha⁴. It was definitely dated before *circa* 1200 A. D., as images in several *devakulikas* are dated V.S. 1259 to 1276 (1202-03 to 1219-20 A. D.)⁵ It consists of a *garbhagriha*, an *antarala*, a *gudha mandapa*, a *trikamandapa*, a *sabha mandapa* and a porch. The *bhamati* contains 24 *devakulikas* in all⁶.

The Paramara dynasty of Abu continued to acknowledge the supremacy of the Chaulukya sovereigns even during the reign of Kumrapla (1142-1172 A. D.). Palanpur, the present headquarters of the Banaskantha district, owes its origin to prince Prahladana, younger brother of the Paramara King Dharavarsha (1163. 1219 A. D.)⁷.

The Sambhavanath temple at Kumbharia was probably built in the 13th century. Devoid of the circumambulatory and surrounding *devakulikas*, it is the smallest and simplest temple in the group. However, it contains all the other component parts and is enclosed in a *prakara*⁸.

The power of the Chaulukya dynasty declined during the reign of Bhimadeva II (1178-1242 A.D.). However, it retained its supremacy over the Paramara kingdom of Chandravati. The Banaskantha district remained under the power of the Chaulukya kings of Anhilwad, even during the reign of the Vaghela lineage of the Chaulukya dynasty, which succeeded the lineage of Mularaja I in 1244 A.D. and held power

1-2. MUNI VISHALVIJAYAJI, *op. cit.*, pp. 18 f., 85 ff.

3. SOMPURA K. F., *op. cit.*, p. 159.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 139.

5. MUNI VISHALVIJAYAJI, *op. cit.*, pp. 129 ff.

6. SOMPURA K. F., *op. cit.*, p. 139.

7. VISHVESHWAR NATH RAO, *Bharata-ke-Prachin Rajavamsa*, Part I, (1920), pp. 78 ff

8. SOMPURA K. F., *op. cit.*, p. 197.



upto V. S. 1360 (1303-04 A. D.), when Karnadeva II lost Gujarat to the Khalji Sultanate of Delhi¹.

MEDIEVAL PERIOD

Of all the districts of the Gujarat State, Banaskantha has bequeathed a scanty heritage of historical documents and records. Though the district is situated on the border of the State, it has remained in oblivion during the medieval period. This may partly be due to the topography of the district which renders it relatively unsuitable for habitation. The desolate land coupled with hostile climate, prevented the growth of commerce. Coming to the *terra firma* of history, it is observed that prior to the commencement of the medieval period, the district was under the sway of different Rajput dynasties (746 to 1304 A.D.). Thereafter it came under the Sultans of Ahmadabad (1390-1573 A.D.). Subsequently Mughal rulers ruled over it (1573-1757 A.D.). They were replaced by the Marathas (1757-1819, A.D.). Lastly, it came under the British rule. The British contact with Banaskantha dates from 1809 A.D. when an agreement was drawn up somewhat similar to Walker's Settlement. The States and Estates under the control of British included Palanpur, Radhanpur, Tharad, Morwada, Vav, Danta, Deodar, Varahi, Tervada, Suigam, Santalpur, Bhabhar and Chadchat. The Kankrej petty States were under the control of the Mahi Kantha Agency till 1844 when they were transferred to the Palanpur Agency.

The plan of study of medieval period is beset with numerous difficulties as several principalities were co-existing. It would, therefore, be relevant to examine the details Statewise giving in the beginning only broad outlines of the early contacts with the Muslims. The early contact of the district with Muslims is indicated by Shri Misra in his book entitled '*The Rise of Muslim Power in Gujarat*'. According to him in 1304-05 when Ala-u'd-din gained respite from Mongol attacks, he commissioned two of his nobles Malik Ahmed Jhampan and Panjuman, to undertake the expedition to attack King Karna Vaghela of Patan². It seems that the surprise attack was made possible by the invader coming from the Abu-Palanpur gap, close to Patan. This was, however, a temporary contact. The Palansi Chauhans occupied

1. The first invasion of Gujarat during the reign of Alauddin-Khalji took place in 1299 A.D. but according to some Muslim historians, Gujarat was finally conquered in consequence of a second invasion, (A.K. MAJUMDAR, *Chaulukyas of Gujarat*, pp. 189 ff.). The date (V.S. 1360) given in *Pravachana-Pariksha* and *Vicharasrenti* obviously applied to the latter invasion.
2. MISRA S. C., *The Rise of Muslim Power in Gujarat*, (1963), p. 65.



the territory around Palanpur till the middle of the 14th century. Thereafter, Jhaloris occupied it possibly in 1370 A.D. from Chauhans. After Taimur's invasion of Delhi, Jhaloris for a time became independent. However, in 1412 A.D. the Sultan of Ahmadabad made Jhalor its vassal. Alike Jhalor, Tharad also became the vassal of Ahmadabad Sultans.

The State of Palanpur and other States became vassals of Mughal rulers from 1573 A.D. onwards. Palanpur remained the vassal of the Mughals upto 1738 A.D. After 1817 A.D. Palanpur State came into direct relation with the British authorities. During the intervening period Marathas became the dominant masters¹.

The local details of the Mughal and Maratha periods have been included in the relevant histories of the respective States. After that the British period is discussed. The Freedom Movement has been examined thereafter. The Treaties and Agreements pertaining to States and Estates have been given at the end.

The Palanpur State²

Palanpur in early times is said to have been called Pralhadan Patan, and seems to have been founded by Pralhadan Dev, brother of Dharvarah Parmar king of Chandravati. It was desolate two centuries before the beginning of the Samvat era (57 B.C.). It was afterwards re-peopled by Palansi Chauhan from whom it derived its modern name. According to some, it was founded by Pal Parmar whose brother Jagdev founded Jagana. It seems probable that around 1303 A.D. it may have been re-peopled by Palansi³. Chauhans seem to have held Palanpur and the country round till about the middle of the fourteenth century, when they were driven out by the southward progress of the Muslims. The Muslim leaders who conquered Palanpur and Deesa were the Jhaloris, who claim to be of Lohani Afghan stock. About 1370 A.D. Malek Yusuf⁴ the head of the family, with relations and retainers, left Bihar where he claimed to be the governor to seek a settlement. He went to Mecca. On the way to Mecca, he

1. NAWABJADA TALE MOHAMMED KHAN, *Palanpur Rajyano Itihas*, Part 1, 1913, p. 13.
2. (a) The Palanpur Agency Directory, Vol. IV (1919), (b) *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha*, (1880).
3. The local legends give the city a much higher antiquity, placing its re-founding under its present name as far back as the fifth century.
4. According to Palanpur Directory, he was Ali Sherkhan who left in the last quarter of fourteenth century with some relations and retainers to go to Mecca or to carve out a fortune in the new field.



and his party came to Songad Jhalor, the famous seat of the Songad Chauhans of whom Kanar Dev is a favourite Rajput hero. In 1373, Malek Yusuf took Songad some say from Viramdev, some say from Visaldev, and most believe from Popanbai (Popabai) Visaldev's widow. Dying in 1395 A. D. (797 H.) after ruling for twenty-two years, Malik Yusuf was succeeded by his son Malik Hasan, who enlarged his kingdom and was recognised by the Emperor as the ruler of Jhalor. It is also said that Chauhan Songara Rajput Visaldev had Khuram Khan as his minister. After the death of the ruler, his wife Popabai ruled in the name of her minor son. She along with other Rajputs was jealous of his position and plotted against his life. On gaining the knowledge, Khuram Khan became violent and Popabai fled. Khuram Khan took the possession of Jhalor¹.

While the Tughluk dynasty (1325-1403 A.D.) lasted, the Jhaloris, though almost independent, were their vassals under the control of the Subedar at Patan. After Taimur's invasion (1399), the Delhi sovereigns were unable to control their distant provinces, and the Jhaloris for a time became independent. But soon (1412 A.D.), the powerful kings of Ahmadabad asserted their sway, and the Jhalor house became their vassal serving them with 7,000 horse.

It is stated in the *Palanpur Directory* that the ruling house of Palanpur Nawab was established in 1394 A.D. and was the oldest among the Mahomedan families on the eve of independence.

सत्यमेव जयते

As seen previously Malek Hasan succeeded his father Malek Yusuf. After a reign of forty-five years Malik Hasan died in 1440 A.D. leaving three sons, Malek Salar, Malek Usman and Hetam Khan. Of these the eldest, Malek Salar, succeeded and after ruling for twenty-one years died in 1461 A.D. Malek Salar was succeeded by his brother Malek Usman, also called Malek Jabdal. He rendered conspicuous services to the Sultan of Gujarat who in appreciation of them, granted him the title of "Zabdutal Mulk" and the districts of Bhinnmal and Sachor. He embraced the faith of the Mohammedan Mahdavi sect. After a reign of twenty-two years Malek Usman was, in 1483 A.D., succeeded by his nephew Malek Budhan, son of Salar Khan². Malek Budhan reigned for twenty two years seven months and, possessed prodigious strength and dying in 1505, A.D. was succeeded by his son

1 *The Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. IV, (1919), p. 15.

2. *Khatima-us-Siliman*, Part II. In Part I it is said that Malek Jabdal was succeeded by his brother Hetam Khan. Major J. W. Watson.



Malek Mujahid Khan. Once, when hunting Malek Mujahid Khan was surprised and carried off as prisoner to Sirohi. He was treated with great kindness, given a palace to live in, and as much luxury as he chose. In revenge for his capture, Maleks, Mina and Piara, the leaders of his forces, ravaged the Sirohi district, and one night making their way to the palace where Malek Mujahid was confined, found him enjoying the society of a beautiful courtesan. In spite of the entreaties he refused to leave the lady and the Malek returned disappointed. After sometime, they succeeded in capturing Kunvar Mandan, the heir to Sirohi, while he was sitting at night over a forest pool waiting for game. Threatening to make the Kunvar a Mohammedan, the Jhaloris so frightened the Rao, that he not only set Malek Mujahid free but ceded to him the district of Viramgam. After ruling at Jhalor for five years Malek Mujahid died in 1509 A.D. During the captivity of Mujahid Khan at Sirohi, Malek Hetam Khan ruled at Jhalor. After Mujahid Khan's death Sultan Mahmud Begada entrusted the rule of Jhalor and Sachor to Shah Jiva, son of Malu Khan. Dying in 1512 A.D. he was succeeded by Malek Ali Sher, son of Budha Khan Jhalori. During Malek Ali Sher's rule, the Rathods of Mandovar in Malva invaded Jhalor, forced their way close to the city, and were with considerable difficulty driven back, after a three days fight. He was fond of poetry and was called 'Naw lakh' by bards. Dying in 1525 A.D. Ali Sher was followed by his son Malek Sikandar Khan, who, like his father suffered much from the attacks of his Hindu neighbours. In 1542 and 1543 A.D. Rao Maldev of Jodhpur besieged, took and plundered Jhalor and Sachor. After Malek Sikandar's death in 1548 A.D. he was succeeded by Malek Ghazni Khan, son of Hetam Khan, who during a reign of two years, restored the power of the Jhalori family, and was succeeded by Malek Khanji, a man of great bravery and of prodigious personal strength. Five years after the death of Ghazni Khan, in 1555 A.D. Fateh Khan Baloch forced one of the most powerful of the Gujarat nobles, marched against Jhalor. Maleks Khanji and Khuram Khan joined battle with the Baloch force before Jhalor. In spite of the greatest bravery on the part of the defenders, Jhalor was taken and Khuram Khan was killed. For fifteen years the Baloch held Jhalor. Thereafter in 1570 A.D. Malek Khanji, gathering some followers, invaded the city. They found the garrison ready to meet them along with an elephant of great size. There was a sanguinary fight in the 'Lasar' plain between him and the Balochs in which the latter were utterly defeated. A few months later the Ruler of Jodhpur attacked Jhalor and took it. He, however, reconquered it in 1555 A.D. Malek Khan ruled over



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Jhalor from 1553-1576 A.D. He was a wise and tactful ruler. Owing to these qualities he won the favour of Mughal Emperor Akbar, whom he had accompanied in his campaigns against Gujarat in 1573 A.D.

Malek Khanji died in 1576 A.D. He left two sons Ghazni Khan and Firoz Khan and a daughter named Tarabai. He was succeeded by Gazni Khan, who according to the *Mirat-i-Ahmadi*, served the State with 7,000 horses. It is said that he did not help Nawab Khan Khanah, sent by Akbar to suppress revolt at Ahmadabad. He was imprisoned and sent to Delhi. Akbar in deference to the wishes of Jodhabai who was related to Amrabai, mother of Ghazni Khan, released him. In 1585 A.D., when Akbar sent a large army headed by Todarmal and Raja Mansing to chastise the Afghans on frontier, Ghazni Khan was ordered to accompany them as one of the Sardars. He acquitted himself creditably and in appreciation of his services, Akbar raised the attachment from Jhalor, Bhinnmal and Sachor. Akbar granted a fresh Sanad for Jhalor and gave him his foster sister in marriage and as dowry granted him Palanpur and Deesa. Ghazni Khan was also appointed as Governor of Lahore and the titles of "Mahakhan" and "Dewan" were granted to him. He was made Mansubdar of 400 horse. In 1589, he was presented with a sword and Poshak of honour was given to him by the Emperor. He also gave help to Shahzada Khurram who was sent by Jahangir to chastise Rana Amarsang of Mewar.

सत्यमेव जयते

During his rule Ghazni Khan's brother, Malek Firoz Khan took Palanpur and Deesa establishing himself at Palanpur. Ghazni Khan, dying in 1614 A.D. was succeeded by his son Pahar Khan, (or Pahad Khan) who being found guilty of matricide was in 1616 A.D. trampled to death under an elephant by the Emperor Jahangir.¹

Pahad Khan I ruled from 1616-1618. He was addicted to drinking against his mothers advice and his bad advisers created such ill-feeling between him and his mother that the latter was murdered by him. Orders were issued by the Delhi Emperor to take him into custody and he was sent as a prisoner. During the investigation he pleaded guilty and was trampled to death in 1618 A.D. Jhalor was then ordered to be annexed by the Emperor Jahangir to the Jagir of

1. Prof. Commissariat in *History of Gujarat*, Vol. II notes "this painful episode in the history of the Jalor family did not end with the death of Pahar Khan for its immediate political consequence was the exclusion of the dynasty from the paragna of Jalor for about 64 years, from 1617 to 1681, A.D. that is from the middle of Jahangir's reign till the middle of the reign of Aurangzeb."



Shahzada Khuram and Fattah-ullah-beg was sent as Governor. The Jhaloris, who were faithful and devoted to the Lohani family attacked the Emperor's army desperately and defeated Fattah-ullah-beg. The matter having been reported to the Emperor a Sanad was issued to the Rathod Raja Sursing of Marwar who sent his son Gajsing to Jhalor. By this time there having been a split among the Jhaloris, Gajsing took Jhalor easily though not without bloodshed. The Jhaloris retreated to Kurza, lived in the mountains for years and carried on depredation in Jhalor territory, which remained in the possession and under the direct control of the Mughal Emperor from 1618-1680 A.D.

Firoz Khan, also called Kamal Khan the uncle of Pahad Khan, who was "Hakem" at Balapur, on hearing of the annexation of Jhalor by the Emperor, proceeded to Gujarat and established his Gadi at Palanpur in 1635 A.D. Firoz Khan I (Kamal Khan) helped Azam Khan, the Subah of Gujarat, to suppress the revolt of the Kolis of Chunwal, headed by Kanji. The Emperor Shahjahan, to whom Firoz Khan's services were reported by the Subah of Gujarat, was much pleased and granted a Sanad to Firoz Khan, confirming to his son Mujahid Khan II the *gadi* of Palanpur after his father's death.

Mujahid Khan II ruled at Palanpur from 1638 to 1663 A.D. He was married to a Jadeja lady Manbai and Mansarovar tank, named after her, was then constructed. He, being very much trusted by Shahzada Aurangzeb, the then Subah of Gujarat, and his Amirs, was appointed in 1642 A.D. Governor of Vijapur, Mahi and Sabarkantha and was put in charge of Patan in 1653 A.D. by Shahzada Murad Baksh. During his tenure of office at Vijapur, Mujahid Khan built an "Id-Gah" (Mahomedan place of worship) which still commemorates his Governorship there. In 1697 A.D. Mujahid Khan was sent to levy the capitation tax (*Jajia Vero*) from the Hindus of Palanpur and Jhalor. Mujahid Khan having no son adopted his nephew Karan Kamal to succeed him.

Karan Kamal ruled in Palanpur from 1663-1706 A.D. He had an elder brother named Fateh Khan with whom he was on the best of terms. Fateh Khan was cleverer and braver than Karan Kamal and according to the Mahomedan rule of succession he ought to have succeeded his uncle Mujahid Khan; but why Mujahid Khan put aside the Mahomedan Law and resorted to the Hindu Law in adopting his

1. *The Palanpur Directory*, Vol. IV, (1919), p. 19.



younger nephew Karan Kamal is not known. Karan Kamal, out of regard and love for his elder brother, consulted him in minute details of administration. In about 1671 A.D., Maharaja Jaswantsing of Jodhpur, who was then Subah of Gujarat, deposed Karan Kamal from the *Gadi* of Palanpur and gave to his brother Fateh Khan ; but after eighteen months it was again restored to him. At that time Chauhan Raja Jogaraj of Vav began to commit depredations in the Sachor district and withheld payment of the annual *Badshahi* “Nazrana”. The Subah of Gujarat sent an army against him but it served no purpose. He, therefore, wrote to Fateh Khan at Palanpur to subdue the Rana and recover the Nazrana from him. Fateh Khan carried out the orders. In appreciation of this and other services Jhalor, Sachor and Bhinnmal which were in the possession of and under the direct control of the Delhi from 1618 to 1680 A.D. were restored to him in 1680 A.D. by the Emperor Aurangzeb by a fresh Sanad. From this time upto his death in 1690, Fateh Khan ruled at Jhalor, and Kamal Khan at Palanpur. In 1699 A.D. when Aurangzeb restored to Maharaja Ajitsing the Jodhpur territory, Jhalor also was claimed by the Rathod Maharaja. The Emperor Aurangzeb gave it to him promising Karan Kamal other Jagirs instead. This promise he could not fulfill, engaged as he was in Deccan with the Marathas. From 1699 A.D. Jhalor, therefore, ceased to be the estate of the Palanpur Rulers. In 1705-06 A.D. when Mahomed Baidar Bakhsh was appointed 41st Viceroy of Gujarat by the Emperor of Delhi, Karan Kamal advanced to Ahmadabad from Palanpur with a large force to defend the city against the incursions of the Marathas. Kamal Khan was succeeded by his son Firoz Khan also called Ghazni Khan. Firoz Khan II ruled at Palanpur from 1707-1719, during which period he attacked and took Tharad, subdued the Mewasi Kolis of Sur Bhakhri, Kidotar and Dabhela and extended his territory. In 1713 A.D. one Daoodi Khan Panni was appointed Viceroy of Gujarat by the Emperor Farukhshyar but as he had to go to the Deccan suddenly, Firoz Khan was put in charge of Gujarat for some time. A dispute arose between Haidar Kuli Khan, the deputy Viceroy of Gujarat and Sardar Khan Babi. The latter marched against the former but was defeated. Due to this scuffle other Babis escaped to Palanpur, and Firoz Khan subsequently arranged a compromise between them.

In 1759 A.D., he took possession of Dhanera and obtained a share in the produce from the Solanki Rajputs. He, thereafter, fortified Palanpur and Deesa, established Thanas at various places to maintain peace and order, acquired a share in the Gadhwada village of Mahesana



district and defeated and exacted tribute from the Pathan Jagirdars of Sembhar Padar. The Thakor of Tharad did not carry good impression with the Emperor of Delhi¹. The Viceroy of Gujarat thought him to be incapable of defending his own territory against the incursions of the Marathas, and, therefore, the Emperor as per the advice of Viceroy placed Bahadur Khan in charge of Tharad.

Between 1782 to 1786 A.D., Salim Khan ruled the State. No event of importance occurred during the rule of Salim Khan. Sher Khan followed him and ruled between 1785 to 1792 A.D. He was very brave. During his time the Maratha incursions were frequent. He, however, was a match for them and on all the occasions he defeated them and forced them to retreat.

On the death of Sher Khan, there was a great disorder in the State. Taking advantage of this, Sonabubu, sister of Sher Khan tried to bring her minor son Mubariz Khan Babi on the *Gadi* against the wishes of the people, the Karbharis and the Sardars. She succeeded in doing so for some time, but the people opposed and dethroned Mubariz Khan and placed Shamsher Khan, the legal heir on the *gadi* in 1794 A.D.

In the time of Shamsher Khan the Sindhi Jamadars wielded great power and influence in the State. Shamsher Khan fearing the harassment fled to Deesa. The Jamadars during his absence placed Firoz Khan III on the *Gadi*. His son Fateh Khan who was then 13 years old, under the advice of his mother, sought the help of the British and the Gaekwad Government to chastise the Jamadars and to obtain the *Gadi* for himself. Shamsher Khan tried several times to come to the *Gadi* but he did not succeed and died in 1836 A.D.

Fateh Khan was of 16 years of age when he came to the *Gadi*. He had four sons, two by his wife, named Jorawar Khan and Ahmed Khan, and two by another wife, named Usman Khan and Sikandar Khan. The first Jorawar Khan was like his father, of quiet, mild disposition and good manners. On the death of Fateh Khan, Jorawar Khan came to the *Gadi* on the 11th July, 1854 at the age of 33. The most important event of the reign of Jorawar Khan was the considerable help which he rendered to the British in 1857 and 1858. A.D. During the eventful year of 1857 A.D. the resources of the State were placed at the disposal of the military authorities. Although it was in the middle of the mon-

1. *The Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. IV, (1919), p. 22.



soon when the cultivators were unwilling to leave their fields, the Dewan met every demand with the greatest willingness. Carts were allowed to go as far as Nasirabad and Kotah with the force under Major-General Roberts. The ready assistance afforded by Palanpur enabled the supplies of stores and ammunition to reach Nasirabad. During the trying period of 1857 A.D. Jorawar Khan openly expressed his confidence in the British Government. He also sent armed retainers when they were required outside his territory. In other words, the State of Palanpur played notable part in suppressing the revolt of 1857. A.D.

The ruler Sir Sher Mahomed Khanji succeeded him in 1877 A.D. at a time when the revenue of the State was only Rs. 3 lakhs out of which it had to pay Rs. 50,000 to Baroda as tribute, Rs. 66,000 to meet the cost of the levy, consisting of 100 foot and 150 horse, and other heavy expenses. In such embarrassed circumstances with heavy debt over the State, the Nawab came to the *Gadi*. He was a First Class Ruler with full civil and criminal powers. He was the 28th ruler in the family. On his accession, his attention was chiefly directed to the development of agricultural resources and the promotion of education. During his rule, 68 new villages had been populated and a vast area of arable lands has been sunk for irrigation. The encouragement given to the needy cultivators by advancing money at a very moderate rate of interest had contributed to a considerable increase in the number of irrigation wells. The *vighoti* system was free and primary education had been introduced and a fully equipped high school was maintained. A hospital and dispensaries were established. A Girls' School was maintained, and an asylum called the Sher Mohamed Mohtaj Khan had been built for the maintenance and shelter of the decrepit, the destitute and the helpless. The judicial and the other departments had been thoroughly reorganised during his rule. There were 127 joint villages in which Jagirdars had got a share.

In appreciation of his good administration and loyalty, the British Government had been pleased to confer upon him the insignia of a K.C.I.E. in 1893 A.D. and G.C.I.E. in 1898, A.D. and hereditary title of Nawab in 1911. A.D. An increase of two salute guns from 11 to 13 had also been granted to him personally in 1914. A.D.

SHRI TALEY MUHAMMED KHAN BAHADUR

Nawab Shri Taley Muhammed Khan Bahadur, Nawab of Palanpur was the last ruler and enjoyed a salute of 13 guns. He



ascended the throne in 1918 A.D. and ruled till merger. During his period Palanpur State witnessed rapid development in respect of agriculture and industry.

In regard to agricultural schemes the operation of the Palanpur Agricultural Rights and Succession Act, 1945, A.D. was enforced in the State. The cultivation of potatoes was carried on a very large scale in Deesa. The "Grow More Food Campaign" was given impetus. An experimental farm had also been opened at Deesa. Experiments of carrying on trials of improved seeds of different crops were made by this farm. Groundnut and sugar-cane seeds were imported and experimented in different localities of the State. Better varieties of wheat seed were imported and distributed to the cultivators of the villages of the State. Improved ploughs, interculture appliances and water-lifts were introduced in different localities of the State.

The Government of India was persuaded to fix Palanpur as the centre for a textile mill and a factory for the manufacture of vegetable ghee.

In order to investigate the mineral resources of the State, the services of Dr. Dessau, an Italian Geologist and Sir Cyril Fox were engaged by ex-Palanpur State. Both of them submitted their Reports in which they mentioned that lime stone of good quality suitable for the manufacture of cement was available in the State.

Legislative Assembly

During the State regime Palanpur Raj Sabha Act which provided for the constitution of a Legislative Assembly was passed in 1939. Owing to the war and other events its operation was stayed. Later on the scheme required revision. It was, therefore, repealed and in its place "The Government of Palanpur State Act, 1946" A.D. was enacted. It came into force from the 1st October, 1946. The chief features of the new Act were :

(1) It provided for the efficient Government of Palanpur in all its aspects.

(2) It dealt with various matters which were not provided for in all the old Acts. The Executive Council was to consist of not more than 5 ministers. The Legislature was to consist of



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50 members out of whom elected members were to be 36 and 14 were to be nominated. The main principle of election was adult franchise, and the method was one of indirect election. The Legislature was given power of discussing budget, making recommendations regarding the major heads of the budget, moving non-official bills, making interpellations and moving resolutions.

(3) It provided for the security of service and provided for the setting up of a Board on the lines of the Public Service Commissions in British India.

(4) The Powers of Judiciary and the constitution of the High Court were provided. The practice which did not permit an appeal against finally to them had been reaffirmed. The judiciary was kept independent of the executive.

(5) A Revenue Tribunal of which one member was to be a High Court Judge had been set-up to decide revenue cases¹.

Separation of Judiciary from Executive

At the beginning of his regime an important step was taken in respect of separation of Judiciary from the Executive. In 1919 A.D. the new posts of Munshiffs were created but the Wazir still continued to be *ex-officio*. The highest Judicial tribunal and certain tehsildars continued to exercise magisterial powers. The Wazir ceased to exercise Judicial powers in 1929 A.D. The Few Tehsildars who exercised magisterial, powers were divested of them and the complete separation of the two functions was effected in 1939 A.D.

At the time of merger, the ruler accepted the privy purse agreement. His privy purse was fixed at Rs. 2,75,000 per annum but the privy purse was abolished by a special Ordinance with effect from 6th September, 1970 A.D. On an appeal by some rulers, the Supreme Court struck down the Ordinance as *ultra vires* of the Constitution with the result that the privy purse was revived.

Subsequently, the Parliament passed the Constitution (twenty-sixth Amendment) Bill in 1971, A.D. for abolition of the privy purses and privileges. The President of India has, with effect from

1. Palanpur State, *Summary Report of the Administration of the Palanpur State*, 1945-46.



28th December, 1971, A.D. withdrawn the recognition of the Rulers of the States and, therefore, the Rulers cease to be Rulers and their privy purses and personal privileges hitherto enjoyed by them stand terminated from 28th December, 1971.

The privileges enjoyed by the rulers and their families were mainly free medical facilities to them and their families, the palace guards at their official residence, exemption from the provisions of the Indian Arms Act, the Motor Vehicles Act, the Education Cess Act, exemption from the local taxation, use of red number plates on the cars belonging to them and their family members, their right to be addressed by their usual recognised titles, gun salute according to the official table, fishing and shooting rights, immunity from the process of the courts of law, full military or police honour at the time of their funeral or the funeral of their wives or heir apparents and requisitioning of their private property, etc¹.

RADHANPUR STATE²

Origin of the Name

The Radhanpur State was bounded on the north by Bhabhar and Terwada, on the east by Terwada, Kankrej and Patan district of Gaekwad, on the south by Vanod, Dasada, Jhinjhuwada and on the west by Rann and Varahi. The State had total area of 1,150 sq. miles.

The State of Radhanpur, before it came under the Mahomedan rule, seems to have been a Rajput principality. According to a tradition the town of Radhanpur is as old as 600 A.D. In the first instance, it was called Radandevpur from Radandev, a Chayda Chief. Chavdas seem to have been followed by Vaghelas and the town is said to have been called Lunavada after Vaghela Lunaji of the Sardhara branch of that tribe. Later on it was held in fief under the Mahomedan kings of Gujarat by Fateh Khan Baloch and is said to have been named Radhanpur after Radhan Khan of that family. The Babi dynasty of the State has an interesting history.

1. G. R., G.A.D., No. PLR-1071-888-GH, dated 12th January, 1972.
2. (a) CAMPBELL J. M., *Bombay Presidency Gazetteer*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha*.
(b) Government of India, *The Ruling Princes, Chiefs and Leading Personages in the Western India States Agency*, (1935).



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Usman Khan and Babis

The first Babi that entered Hindustan was Usman Khan who accompanied Humayun. The word Babi derives its origin from Baba, a Pathan noble of Afghanistan, the originator of the family. There is another account as to the origin of this surname. The word "Babi" means trusted. The trustworthiness of the members of their family is of ancient repute. From the time of Akbar the Babis have been attached to Gujarat. One Bahadur Khan Babi was, in the reign of Emperor Shah Jahan (1627-1658A.D.), appointed Manager of Tharad, and his son Sher Khan Babi (1654-1657A.D.) was sent to help Prince Murad Baksh in Gujarat. In 1663A.D. he was made Manager (*thandar*) of Chunval, with 500 horse under him. The Emperor approved of this arrangement but suggested an addition of 200 more horse. In 1693A.D., his son Jafar Khan, whose talent and local influence gained him the title of Safdar Khan and the charge of Radhanpur, Sami, Munjpur and Terwada, was Deputy Governor of Patan (Nayab Suba). In 1698 A.D., strained relations between Sujat Khan, the Suba of Gujarat and Jafar Khan led to the resignation of the latter who went to Malwa. From Malwa, he did not return until Sujat Khan's term of office expired.

At the end of 1701 A.D., Prince Muhammad Azam sent orders to Durgadas at Patan, where the latter was Governor, to come down to Ahmadabad and to attend his court. At this time, there also arrived in Gujarat Safdar Khan Babi, the aggressive and energetic ex-fauzdar of Patan, who had been sulking in Malwa since 1698 owing to a disagreement with Sujat Khan. This noble offered either to bring Durgadas a prisoner to the prince's court or to kill him. Durgadas left Patan on receiving the summons with some of his troops, and on reaching Ahmadabad, encamped at the village of Wadaj near Ahmadabad. On the appointed day for the interview, Prince Azam Shah issued orders to all the local officials, as also to Safdar Babi and his sons, to attend his court in arms, under the pretext that he was to proceed on a hunting expedition. Durgadas had spent the day in fasting, as it was the *ekadashi* of the Hindu month, and expected to wait on the prince after he had taken his meals. But when messengers arrived from the prince one after another, to summon him, his suspicions were aroused. He, therefore, burnt his tents and taking horse fled with his troops back to Patan. Muhammad Azam despatched the Superintendent of the Artillery and other officers including Safdar Khan Babi and his sons, in pursuit of the fugitive towards Patan.



When they neared that place, the brave young grandson of Durgadas opposed them with his own troops and allowed his grandsire to make good his escape. Durgadas escaped to Unjha, while his grandson met his death in the battle, in which Salabat Khan, one of Safdar Khan Babi's sons, was wounded. The delay in pursuit gave Durgadas time to fly further north to Tharad and then to Marwar¹. In place of Durgadas, Jafar Khan (Safdar Khan) was re-instated in 1704 A.D. as Nayab Subah of Patan. The management of Vijapur was also entrusted to him. He led the Mughal army to Narmada to oppose the invasion of the Marathas under the leadership of Dhanaji Jadav in 1706 A.D. but was defeated at the battle of Ratanpur and taken prisoner along with his two sons, Salabat Mohmed Khan and Jawan Mard Khan (Sr.). His liberation cost him a heavy ransom. His son Khan Jahan or Khanji Khan, with the title of Jawan Mard Khan was in 1715 A.D. appointed Governor of Radhanpur. From 1717 to 1724 A.D. he was a leading noble at Ahmadabad. In 1725 A.D. he was appointed Governor of Patan. Four years later while Governor of Petlad, he was killed by a Koli of Balor. He got built a wall around the town of Radhanpur. His eldest son Kamal-ud-din-Khan was given the *mansab* with his father's title of Jawan Mard Khan, and his second son Muhammad Anwar, the title of Safdar Khan with the charge of Radhanpur, Sami, Munjpur, Tharad, Terwada and Varahi and 15,000 acres (30,000 Bighas) of land in an islet in the Rann of Kachchh. Kamal-ud-din Khan was *de facto* Viceroy from 1744 to 1753 A.D.

JAWAN MARD KHAN II

सत्यमेव जयते

During the next twenty-four years (1729-1753 A.D.) Jawan Mard Khan II was one of the strongest of the Gujarat nobles. At the same time, a branch of the house established itself at Junagadh in Saurashtra and at Vadasinor in the Kheda district.

The founder of the Junagadh house, who was also the first Babi of Vadasinor, was Mahammad Bahadur, otherwise known as Sher Khan. In 1730 A.D., Jawan Mard Khan was appointed Governor of Vadnagar, and three years later of Viramgam. From Viramgam he was, in the next year, transferred to Kadi and Vijapur, and in 1738 A.D. was sent to Patan, his brother Jorawar Khan getting Kheralu instead of Prantij. About 1743 A.D., Jawan Mard Khan began to aspire for the post of the Viceroy. He was already laying claim to the revenue of the district round Ahmadabad, when Fida-ud-din, who

1. COMMISSARIAT M. S. (PROF), *A History of Gujarat*, Vol. II, pp. 202--203.



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had, by a forged order, usurped the Viceroyalty, appointed Jawan Mard Khan his Deputy. Soon after Fida-ud-din's troops mutinied and he fled leaving Jawan Mard Khan in possession of the city. Jawan Mard Khan now usurped the Viceroyalty, and opposed and defeated the next two Viceroys, Muftakhir Khan and Fakhr-ud-daulah. A third Viceroy Maharaja Vakhatsing, though appointed, never took up the charge.

DAMAJI GAEKWAD'S INVASION

In 1753 A.D., while Jawan Mard Khan and his brother Jorawar Khan were levying tribute in Banas Kantha, Raghunathrao Peshwa and Damaji Gaekwad suddenly appeared before Ahmadabad. Hastening by forced marches, Jawan Mard Khan reached Ahmadabad from Palanpur and by night succeeded in entering the city. After a most brilliant defence, as he had no funds he was forced to surrender. It was agreed that, for himself and his brother, Jawan Mard Khan should receive, free from any Maratha claim, the districts of Patan, Vadnagar, Sami, Munjpur, Visnagar, Tharad, Kheralu, Radhanpur with Terwada and Vijapur, and that one of Jawan Mard Khan's brothers should serve the Marathas with 300 horse and 500 foot, expenses of the force being paid by the Marathas. It was at the same time agreed that the Marathas should give Jawan Mard Khan the sum of Rs. 1,00,000 besides presenting him with an elephant and other articles of value. In 1755 A.D., driven by Momin Khan from Ahmadabad, the Marathas called Jawan Mard Khan to their help. Coming from Patan, he helped the Marathas and in 1757 A.D., after the surrender of the city again retired to Patan. After the death of Jawan Mard Khan, Damaji Gaekwad, in 1765 A.D., succeeded in wresting from his sons Gazi-ud-din, and Nazam-ud-din, Patan, Visnagar, Vadnagar, Vijapur and Kheralu, leaving them only Radhanpur, Sami, Munjpur, Tharad and two villages in Patan, Dhanera and Palipur. It may be observed that the Marathas suspected Babi's hand in the revolt against them led by Shambhuram and Rohila Pathan.

Sami and Munjpur were kept by Gazi-ud-din Khan and Radhanpur, Tharad and Terwada by his brother, who dying childless in 1787 A.D., the districts lapsed to the elder brother Gazi-ud-din Khan who had two sons, Sher Khan and Kamal-ud-din Khan. On his death in 1813, A.D. the elder son kept Radhanpur and the younger, Sami and Munjpur. Tharad and Terwada seem to have been lost.

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Nawab of Radhanpur on the authority of the Sanad granted to him in 1717 A.D. disputed the right of the Chief of Morwada to retain Tharad but as Harbhamji was found in possession of the district when the British connection with these Chiefs took place in 1819 A.D., his right was acknowledged by the Government of Bombay. Waghela Khanji Chief of Morwada was in charge of Tharad, which he got from Nawab of Radhanpur for showing gallantry.

Treaty with Gaekwad

Shortly after his accession, on the advice of Captain Carnac, Resident at Baroda, Sher Khan made a treaty with the Gaekwad in 1813 A.D. According to the treaty the Gaekwad, though he could not meddle with the internal management of Radhanpur, was empowered, under the advice and mediation of the British Government to control the external relations and to help the Nawab in defending his State from foreign invasion. During the next five or six years, the Nawab finding himself powerless to check the raids of the Khosas and other marauders from Sindh sought the help of the British Government, and offered to pay his share of the cost of crushing the banditti. Help was at once given. In 1819, A.D. Colonel Barklay expelled the marauders from all parts of Gujarat. Major Miles who accompanied him as Political Agent by the orders of the Bombay Government, negotiated an agreement with the Nawab under the terms of which the Nawab bound himself not to harbour robbers, plunderers, or enemies of the British Government. He was expected to accompany the British troops with all his forces, and to pay a yearly tribute in proportion to his means. On the 18th February, 1822 A.D. the yearly tribute was fixed at a sum of Rs. 17,000 for five years. It continued to be levied for three years, when the Court of Directors in July, 1825 A.D. deeming the State unable to pay so large a sum, remitted it in full. The tribute was never again imposed.

Kamal-ud-din Khan, died in 1824 A.D. His elder brother Sher Khan succeeded to the State. He died in 1825 A.D. and was succeeded by his son Jorawar Khan, a child of three years age. Sardar Bibi, the second wife of the Nawab, was appointed as the regent. When Jorawar Khan attained maturity he was entrusted with the management of the State in 1837. A.D. After ruling for 50 years he was succeeded in October 1874 A.D., by his eldest son Bismillah Khan who came to the *Gadi* at the age of 32 years. He introduced many reforms in the State, both in Revenue and Judicial Departments. Regular Courts



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were established for the first time during his reign. The first English School and the Library were opened in the year 1875 A.D. to commemorate the visit of the Prince of Wales in India. The Jubilee Hall was erected in 1887 A.D. in honour of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, Empress of India. A large canal called "the Scott Canal" was constructed in the year 1891 A.D. at a great cost and labour. Its length was 9 miles. The transit duty which amounted to one lakh of rupees was abolished in 1887 A.D. in commemoration of the Jubilee. The Bismillah Khan Printing Press was also opened. On account of the famine of 1899 A.D. and the successive bad years the number of cattle and the population had greatly been reduced. Moreover the condition of agriculture had been so impaired that the people in this State took a long time to recover from the terrible effects of the bad years. In order to develop trade and industries two cotton ginning factories and one press had been opened and the State had abolished the internal customs and remitted the arrears of revenue from the years 1895 to 1904 A.D. Before the terrible famine of 1899 A.D. the pecuniary condition of both the cultivators and traders was good but since then the former having lost their cattle and some of them having died, the dues from them could not be recovered by the latter. Moreover, the salt impregnated sand of the Rann of Kachchh which was brought by the wind to the land of this State made the land useless for cultivation. The Nawab Jalaludin Khan tried his best to relieve the cultivators of their poverty. The practice of handing over houses belonging to cultivators dying intestate and heirless to the holders of heirship certificates had been introduced. Dr. Mann, the Government Agricultural Chemist, after examining the land which had become brackish came to the conclusion that much benefit may result from an extensive system of bundh erection, combined with sufficient provision for drainage ; the bundhs being of varying sizes according to the extent of country they were desired to affect. He also gave the opinion that it might do good to plant a series of lines of trees on slightly raised ground on the border of the Rann which might diminish the effects of the salt bearing wind of salt industry. The Nawab gave to the agriculturists due rights of occupancy and rules had been framed on the lines embodied in Bombay Act II of 1879 A.D. and also on the basis of the amendment of 1911 A.D. A system of village storage had been instituted as a precaution against famine.

To improve the supply of water which was very scarce in some of the villages, the State had purchased one Musto Patent Boring Machine and the first experiment was made at Fatehkot. On boring



upto 32 feet, the soil was found to be sandy and the water very saltish but on going deeper the water was found to be sweet and the soil rocky. The rock on being roughly examined and tested was found to contain traces of gold, the pieces obtained from 100 feet depth seeming to contain an appreciable amount of the precious metal. Nawab Jalaludin Khan died at the age of 53 on the 19th December, 1895 A.D. after a rule of 21 years.

He was succeeded by his son Haji Mahomed Sher Khan. Owing to his minority, the State was placed under British administration which was terminated in 1907 A.D. when he assumed full powers. He died in 1910 A.D. while at sea and was succeeded by his younger brother Jalaludin Khan. With a view to afford facilities to the cultivators and other subjects of the State, a bank called "Vadhiar Bank" had been established in 1927. A.D. It lent money to people on easy interest and terms. He expired on 4th December, 1936. A.D.

He left no male issue and was succeeded by Suba Murtuza Khan who represented a senior line of cousins. Nawab Murtuza Khan was born on 10th October, 1899 A.D. He received his education at the Radhanpur High School and attended the Rajkumar College, Rajkot for a few months. He had received training in administrative matters under the late Nawab Sir Jalaludin Khan. He managed revenue *vahivat* of his own villages and had been in touch with revenue matters. He continued his rule till the merger of the State.

The State was a First Class State in political relationship with the Government of India, through the Political Agent of Eastern Kathiawad Agency and the Resident at Baroda for States of Western India and Gujarat States with full plenary criminal and civil jurisdiction. The State paid no tribute to the British Government nor to any other Indian State. On the contrary, it received an annual Jama amounting to Rs. 1,712 from the surrounding 8 villages of Chhadchhat and Santalpur, 1 of Varahi, 4 of Jhinjhuwada, 4 of Vanod and 1 of Dasada. Out of this amount, the Jama payable by the units attached to the State were remitted as an act of goodwill.

In pursuance of the scheme of attachment of semi-jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional Estates the following semi-jurisdictional Talukas and non-jurisdictional Estates had been attached to the Radhanpur State, under Agency Notification No. 126, dated 24-7-1943 A.D. with effect from 31-7-1943. A.D. They were semi-jurisdictional Talukas of



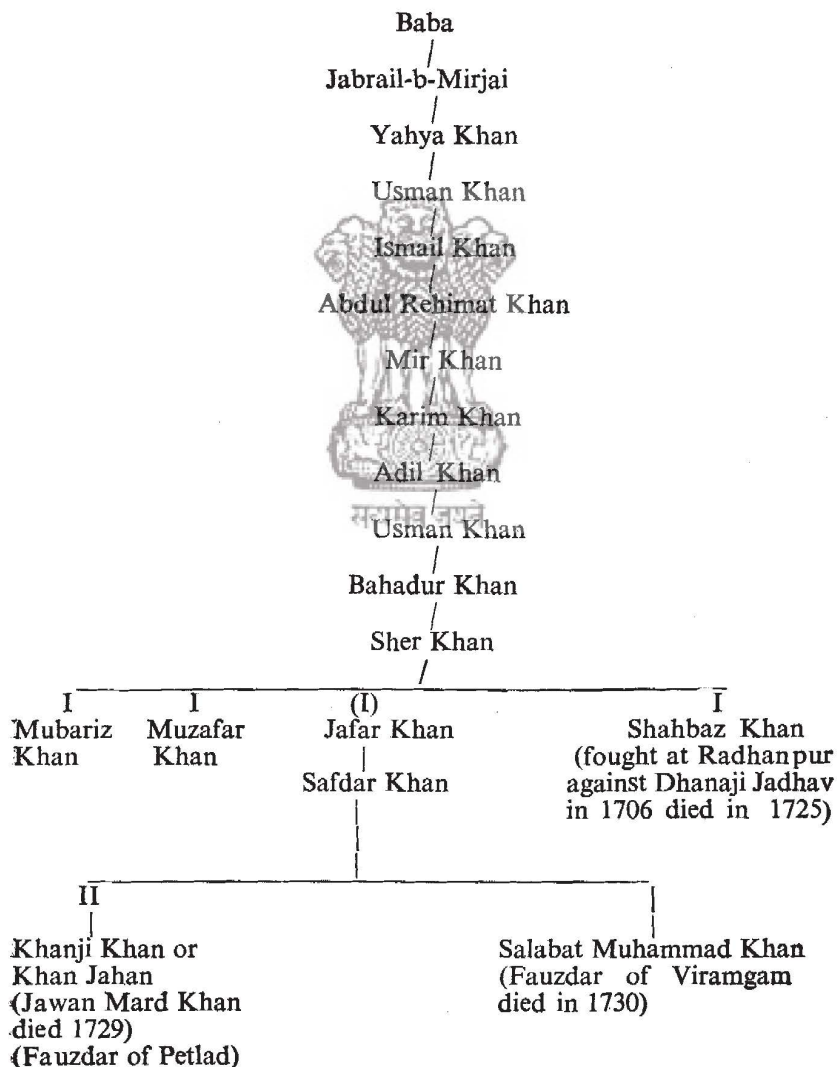
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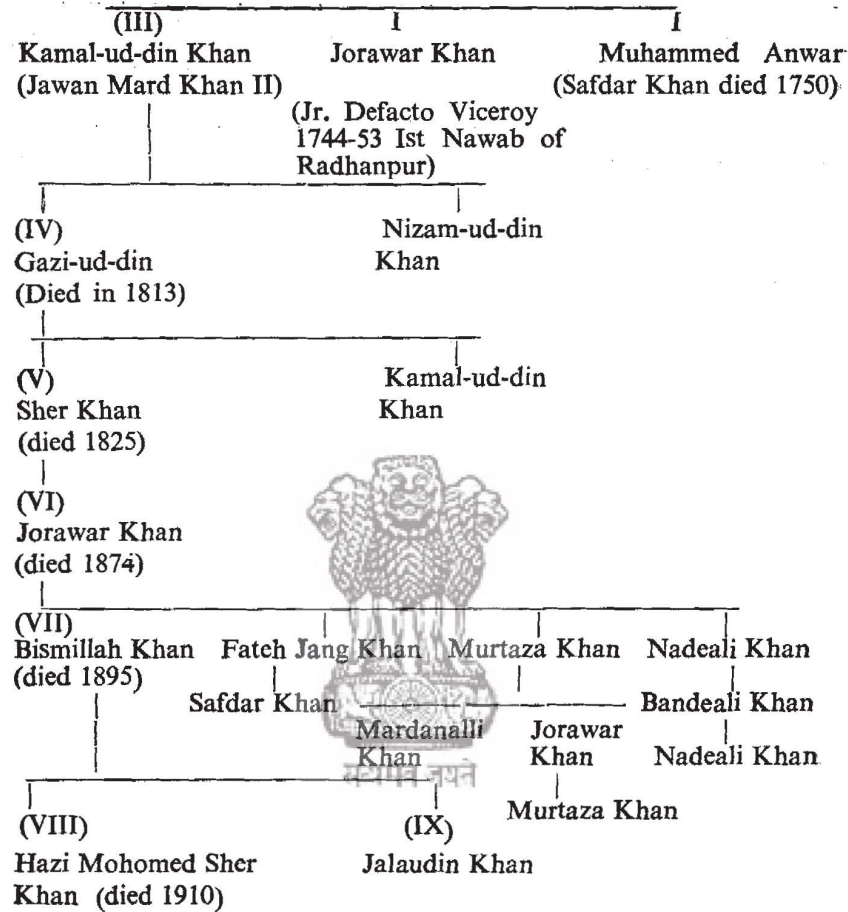
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Varahi, Adesar (in Santalpur) and Terwada and non-jurisdictional Estates of Varahi Thana numbering in all 21, Santalpur Thana consisting of 30 Estates and Bhabhar Thana consisting of 10 Estates.

The area of these semi-jurisdictional Talukas and non-jurisdictional Estates admeasured 1,108 sq. miles. The total area of the State admeasured 2,258 sq. miles.

GENEALOGICAL TABLE OF THE RADHANPUR STATE





1 Sher Khan Babi became first Nawab of Junagadh 1748-1758.

1 Sardar Muhammad Khan became first Nawab of Balasinor.



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After the integration, the ruler accepted the privy purse agreement under which the privy purse was fixed at Rs. 1,29,000 per annum. This privy purse was abolished by a special Ordinance dated 6th September, 1970 A.D., issued by the President of India. On an appeal by some rulers, the Supreme Court struck down on 7th December, 1970 A.D. the Ordinance as *ultra vires* of the Constitution. As a result, the payment of the privy purse had been revived.

As stated before the privy purses and privileges of the rulers have been abolished with effect from 28th December, 1971 A.D.

THE DANTA STATE

Origin of the name Danta

Danta was a Second Class State in the Mahikantha Agency and was next in importance to Idar. It was on the north-west frontier of Mahikantha and consisted of 174 villages. The name Danta is derived from the pilgrimage centre 'Dantoria Vir' which is located three miles away in western direction from Danta. The total area of the State was 347 square miles.

Ravpalji Legend

Ravpalji Parmar, fortieth in descent from Vikram (56 B.C.), went on a pilgrimage to Dwarka and from there to Kachchh. He took a vow never to eat or drink without having first worshipped Ambika Mata. She, pleased with his devotion, promised him any boon he might desire. He chose the throne of Nagar Tatta in Sindh and founded three royal seats, at Nagar Tatta, Bamanuva and Bela (809). Damoji twelfth in descent from Ravpalji (Ravmalji) having no son, prayed to Ambaji Mata, and she from the blood of her own finger raised up a prince, and ordered him to be called Jas Raj. At this time Nagar Tatta was invaded and, after a nine years' struggle was taken by the Muhammadans, and Damoji was slain. Jas Raj continuing the contest was at first successful. Afterwards the Moham-medans returned in strength and defiled the land, whereupon Goddess told Jas Raj that she wished to retire to Arasur. The Raja followed her, and in reward got the throne of that country. Reaching Arasur about the middle of the eleventh century, the Goddess gave him her tiger, and telling him to mount it, promised, that whatever territory he rode round, should be his. The Raja mounted the tiger and



made the circuit of 760 villages. On the north he included the country up to the Bharja's well in the lands of Sirohi ; on the north-east up to Kotra ; on the east as far as Derol, on the south east as far as Gadhvada ; on the south as far as Kheralu ; and on the north-west as far as Hathidara. With a treasure found in the Bandharo hill, now called Gabbar, he raised an army, and, returning to Nagar Tatta, drove out the Muhammadans and remained in that country till his death.

Tarsangia Defeated

Meanwhile his son Kedarsing or Kesharsing stayed at Gabbar-gadh with the Mata. In 1069, A.D. he stayed at Tarsangia hill of Tarsanghmo, and established his capital there.

Kanar Dev (Kand Dev)

After several generations Tarsanghmo was taken by Ala-ud-din Khalji (1295-1315 A.D.), but was soon recovered by Rana Jagatpal. Sixth in descent from Jagatpal was Kanar Dev (Kand Dev), whose brother Amboji seized the lands of Kotara (Kotda). Kanar Dev had two Ranis, one of whom was of the Jhala family of Halvad. She built the eastern door of Kheralu and a well and pond. The well is still known as the Jhali's well. The second wife Ratan Kunvari of the Sisodia family of Udepur founded Rohapur Patan called Rora. Kanar Dev returning from after marrying a third wife, was treacherously attacked by his brother, and in the scuffle both were killed.

Rao Bhan Challenged

Rao Bhan of Idar (1445 A.D.), on hearing of the death of the two brothers collected a force and took Tarsanghmo and leaving a garrison there, seized Maru Ravat whom Kanar Dev had left in charge, and carrying him to Idar, imprisoned him. Insulted by the Rao he swore that, if he ever got free, he would pull down the palace of Idar and throw it into the Harnav river. After sometime, he was released and went to Halvad where the two princes were staying. Taking them along with him, he marched to Ahmadabad and had an interview with Sultan Muhammad II (1441-1451 A.D.), who, on condition of payment of Rs. 1,00,000 sent an army against Idar. On the approach of the army Rao Bhan fled and the palace was pulled down (1445A.D.). Subsequently Maru Ravat promised a gold Mohar to every soldier who could take a stone of the palace and throw it into the Harnav.



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Many did so, and Maru's threat that he would cast the palace into the river was virtually carried out. From Idar the army marched to Tarsanghmo. The palace was occupied and was handed over to the young chief by the Sultan. On the demand of pay by army, Maru fled to the Sudasna hills. However, afterwards he paid the troops by mortgaging the Kheralu district.

Askarnaji and Akbar's Prince

In the time of Askaranji Rana, one of Akbar's princes, having given offence, fled and was sheltered by Askaranji. He built a fortress upon the hill called Kalvañ, above three miles north of Tarsanghmo. After some time the prince left for the west, where he was seized and sent to Delhi by Rao Bharmal of Kachchh. In return for this service Rao got the Morbi district. In reward for his loyalty to the prince, Askaranji Rana was given by the Emperor a dress of honour and the title of Maha Rana. Askaranji left three sons, Vagh, Jaymal and Pratapsing. Rana Vagh, on hearing of the beauty of two of the Idar Ranis who had come to worship at Khed Brahma visited the temple under the guise of a Brahman. Enraged at this insult, the Rao of Idar offered Vegarno Jamadar, a Brahman convert to Islam, the village of Vadali if he would seize Rana Vagh. Establishing close friendship with the Rana Vegarno one day asked him to drink opium on the bank of the Sabarmati. The chief with only two horse-men was captured and was carried to Vadali and thrown into the prison. Vegarno told the Rao, about his success and asked him to confine Jaymal, the Rana's brother ; but Jaymal hearing of the plot escaped and assembling a force took possession of Tarsanghmo, and beat off an attack made by Kalyanmal. After a short time the Idar army came against Tarsanghmo, but was defeated in a bloody battle and was forced to retreat.

From Tarsanghmo to Danta

A third attempt was more successful and the Rana with his family fled to Danta, where being followed by their enemies, they took shelter in the temple of the Mata. Kalyanmal left posts at every village, and Rana Jaymal, by degrees losing all his men and horses, at last died. Though his son Jetmal succeeded in recovering several villages, Tarsanghmo lay desolate and his headquarters were removed to Danta, (1544 A.D.), called after Dantorio Vir whose shrine lies three miles to the west on the road to Navavas. Rana Jetmal was succeeded



by his son Jaysing. But as he failed to please some of the leading men, they recalled his brother Punja, who was hiding in Sirohi and made him chief. Jaysing retired to the villages of Gangva and Man-kari. Rana Punja was a successful ruler, establishing several claims over the neighbouring lands. He left three sons, Mansing who succeeded him, Amarsing who received the village of Sudasna, and Dhen-goji who was given Gancheru.

Maharana Pruthusing and Bhats

Mansing after ruling for four or five years died leaving two sons Gajsing who succeeded him, and Jasvoji who was at first given the village of Ranpur, but later on got Sudasna on the death of his cousins Hathioji and Jagoji and afterwards obtained Vasai and Jaspur-Chelanu in Danta. Gajsing was succeeded by his elder son Pruthusing (1687 A.D.) while Viramdev the younger son obtained the village of Nagel. During the time of Rana Pruthusing the army of Damaji Gaekwad came to Danta, and did not withdraw till the Rana had agreed to pay tribute. Haidar Kuli Khan, Viceroy of Gujarat (1721-22 A.D.) also marched on Danta, but was defeated. About this time the Palanpur chief, ceased to pay a claim of the Ranas on the Palanpur village of Ghodial by placing some Bhats in charge of the same. Dis-regarding the Bhats, the Rana plundered the village and seven of their number committed suicide. This, it was said, was the reason why all the Rana's seven sons died before him.

Karanji

Karanji his nephew who succeeded him, quarelling with Megh-raj, one of his chief men, was attacked and forced to fly before the strength of Meghraj and the Thakor of Sudasna. Two years later by the help of the Diwan of Palanpur, Karanji was reinstated.

Ratansing (1790 A.D.), Abhaysing (1793 A.D.) and Mansing (1800 A.D.)

Karanji was succeeded by his son Ratansing and he after ruling for five years, by his brother Abhaysing. Finding his chief men and vassals troublesome, Abhaysing promised a fourth share of the Danta revenue to a Maratha named Arjunrav Choparo. He, with a hundred Gaekwad horse, after about two years began to build a small fort at Danta. At last his conduct became so oppressive, that, with the help of the people, Mansing, the Rana's eldest son, drove him out.



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Shortly after, Rana Abhaysing died (1795 A.D.) and was succeeded by his son Mansing who acted with vigour and increased the power of the State.

Jagatsing

Dying in 1800 A.D., he was succeeded by his brother Jagatsing, who was also a vigorous ruler. He chastised Bhils and brought several villages in his fold. Afterwards he fell into trouble with Vakhtoji Jitoji one of his vassals, but by the help of the Diwan of Palanpur the dispute was quietly settled.

Narsingji, Jalamsingji, Harisingji, and Jaswantsingji

In the second dispute between the Rana and one of his vassals, the Rana agreed, on condition that the Diwan of Palanpur helped him to keep order, to make over to him nearly one-half share of the Danta territory. This arrangement continued till 1848 A.D. when on condition of yearly payment of Rs. 500 it was cancelled. As Jagatsing had no son he proposed to adopt a son of Narsing, his brother. But Narsing refused saying that he would not fall at his own sons' feet. After this Jagatsing suspected that Narsing had designs on his life and fled from his capital. He was persuaded to come back, but soon after, in 1823, A.D., died of fever. Narsingji, who succeeded him, ruled till 1847 A.D. when he was succeeded by his son Jalamsingji. In 1857 A.D. the State assisted the British Government at the time of the mutiny. The State also assisted the Government in the introduction of vaccination and also in the arrangement of salt. The Maharanaji died in 1859 A.D. leaving a minor son Sardarsingji who died after 6 months and so he was succeeded by his uncle Harisingji. In his time many tanks and public buildings were built. Shri Jaswantsingji was looking after the State affairs during the old age of Rana Harisingji. He died in 1877 A.D. leaving behind him 4 sons, viz., Jaswantshingji, Mohobatsingji, Ratansingji and Bhimsingji. Rana Jaswantsingji succeeded Rana Harisingji. The Rana signed the Opium Treaty in 1878 A.D. The Government decided to address the Rana as 'Maharanaji Shri from 1886 A.D.' The Maharana gave Rs. 8,000 to the Sadra Scott College for talukdars and princes and many public institutions such as schools, Dharamshalas, tanks, wells and roads, were built in his time. During the year 1896 A.D. Government were pleased to restore to the

1. *Vide* Government Resolution No. 908, dated 15th February, 1886.



Maharana his status as a 2nd class chief. Jaswantsingji was a prominent ruler and looked into all the details of the administration himself. The Bhils held him in awe and he ruled with a firm hand. Jaswantsingji died on 27th April, 1908, A.D. and his eldest son Hamirsingji aged 39 succeeded to the *Gadi*. In 1914 A.D. in addition to the State contribution to the Imperial Indian Relief Fund and Lady Willingdon's Fund Maharana Shri Hamirsingji made a generous offer of Rs. 15,000 towards providing Motor Ambulances for the India Expeditionary Force. The State had donated to the First War Loan amounting to Rs. 53,000 over and above contributions to the Imperial Indian Relief Fund. Further War Bonds amounting to Rs. 21,150 were donated to Government by the State towards the expenses of the War. A personal salute of 9 guns was given to the Maharana of Danta.

Hamirsingji and Bhavanisingji

Maharana Hamirsingji died on 29th November, 1923 and was succeeded by his son Bhavanisingji. He ruled the State benevolently and was awarded the titles of "Sir" and K.C.S.I. He was a pious and devoted man. He ruled the State till its merger and died in November, 1953¹. A.D. After the integration, the ruler accepted the privy purse agreement under which the privy purse was fixed at Rs. 92,000 per annum. This privy purse was abolished by a special Ordinance dated 6th September, 1970, issued by the President of India. On an appeal by some rulers, the Supreme Court struck down on 7th December, 1970 the Ordinance as *ultra vires* of the Constitution. As a result, the payment of the privy purse had been revived.

As stated before the privy purses and privileges of the rulers have been abolished with effect from 28th December, 1971.

THE THARAD STATE

The State of Tharad was bounded on the north by Marwad, on the east by the Palanpur State, on the south by the Deodar and Suigam talukas and on the west by the Vav State.

The last ruler belonged to a Waghela tribe of Rajputs who claimed their descent from Arno Raj Solanki, a descendant several degrees remote in the line of Bhuwad, a renowned king of Kalyani. Kumarpal,

¹ J. SIR BHAVANISINH VIDYALAYA, *Vanvenu* 1967-68, Danta-Bhawangadh, p. 45.



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king of Gujarat, gave Arno Raj in appanage the village of Waghel from which his descendants acquired the name of Waghelas. According to tradition Tharad town is said to have been founded by one Tharpal Dhruva, a migratory Jain Chief of Bhinnamal in 45 A.D. The name Tharad seems to have originated from his name. Tharad was formerly under the sway of the Parmar Chiefs. Some generations later, it passed into the hands of a Chauhan chief. Accounts as to how it became a Chauhan chieftdom differ. According to the Jain account the last chief of the Parmar line, who was Jain by religion, became a Jain Sadhu and retired from the world, making over the chieftdom to his sister's son the Chauhan of Nadol (Nadul). Others say that the Chauhan killed his maternal uncle and usurped the chieftdom with the title of Rana. One Rana Punjaji was attacked and slain by Multani Musalmans and his dynasty was overthrown. This took place between 1174 to 1210 A.D. His posthumous child Vajaji coming of age, established the town of Vav and conquering several villages of his lost patrimony founded an independent chieftdom of Vav.

On the rise of the Musalman dynasty of Ahmadabad (1403A.D.) the Multani family became their vassal and the Jhalori Mahomedans took possession of the chieftdom but before long they were deprived of it by Babi Mahomed Sher, the Nawab of Radhanpur. Maharaja Abhaysinhji of Jodhpur when appointed to the Viceroyalty of Gujarat drove away the Babi from Tharad and placed it in charge of Nayak. The next ruler of Tharad was Chauhan Jetmalji, a cadet of the Vav House, who established himself there in 1736 A.D. Tharad then passed into the hands of the Diwan of Palanpur who secured it from Jetmalji at the instance of Rana Vajrajji, the head of the Vav House, who feared that Jetmalji might prove a dangerous rival. In 1740 A.D. Kamludin Khanji, the Nawab of Radhanpur obtained criminal jurisdiction over Tharad. One Khanji, a Waghela Rajput of Morwada, who was in the service of the Nawab and whose gellantry had favourably impressed the latter, was placed in charge of Tharad. Khanji claimed his descent from Lunaji Waghela of Sardhar, who being expelled by Vibhoji, the head of the Jadeja House of Rajkot, took up his residence in Morwada. A man of much talent and strength, Khanji before his death (1786 A.D.) succeeded in making himself independent. His descendents are known as Sardhar Waghela from the fact that their ancestor Lunaji was the chief of Sardhar. He was succeeded by his son Rana Harbhamji who sought in 1820A.D. the protection of the British Government from a gang of marauders who infested the State. The



gang was stamped out by the British authorities and the State came in contact with the Paramount Power from that date. Rana Harbhamji died in 1823 A.D. and was succeeded by Karansinhji who died in 1859 A.D. and was succeeded by his grandson Khengarsinhji.

Khengarsinhji died in 1892 A.D. and was succeeded by Abhay-sinhji who died in 1910 A.D. and Thakor Shri Daulatsinhji came to the *Gadi*. During the time of Daulatsinhji, an anglo-vernacular school was established. There were vernacular school and a girls school at Tharad and five other schools at Morwada, Madka, Dua, Bhorol and Uchosan. The school could be opened as Galbibai, the daughter of Seth Baloo Nemaji Khusalchand of Tharad gave Rs. 7,000 in donation. At present it is called Janata High School. Another important institution established during the time of this ruler was Shri Daulatsinhji Library.

The State had opened a dispensary at Morwada in 1913-14 A.D. which was called "Trikam Jivraj Dispensary" which had been constructed at the cost of the donor whose name it bears. Daulatsinhji died on the 9th February, 1921, A.D. leaving three sons of whom Bhimsinhji, the eldest, succeeded to the *Gadi* of the State.

In consequence of the mal-administration of his State, Thakor Shri Bhimsinhji, Ruler of the Tharad State, was deprived of his powers as ruler of the Tharad State. The State had accordingly been taken under management with effect from 15th June, 1939. A.D. It may be pointed out that the ruler according to Shri Punamchand Doshi was amiable in disposition and was tremendously liked by the people. As he came into conflict with the Agency Officers he was forced to leave. He, however, reoccupied his throne on 15th August, 1947, A.D. the day on which India became independent.¹

It may be pointed out that the State had benefited more from British protection. From the earliest times it had been involved in continued warfare, attacking and plundering its weaker neighbours and in its turn suffering the same calamities it had so unsparingly inflicted on others. The result of constant anarchy and confusion was to render the population averse to all agricultural pursuits, and the country in consequence was neglected by the merchants, etc., who, unable to obtain assistance from the chiefs, deserted the district in

1. DOSHI PUNAMCHAND, *Apnu Tharad*, (1958), p. 18.



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large number seeking shelter wherever life and property were more secured. The arrangements were made to put a stop to the inroads of the Khosas (a tribe of Sindhi marauders). The efficient assistance and protection afforded by the British Government to these petty chiefs, speedily restored confidence and within four or five years after the agreements had been entered into, 198 villages had been re-peopled and Lieut. Colonel Miles, the Political Agent, in reporting on their condition observed that “they have improved beyond expectation, they have abandoned their former mode of life” have become industrious cultivators of the soil and have conducted themselves (to the surprise of all their neighbours) in a most peaceful and orderly manner.”

For many years the larger half of the State consisted of what were known as the Jamaiya villages numbering 107 in all. They were under British Administration. The Government of India affirmed in 1884 A.D. the principle that those villages were part of the Tharad State and that the jurisdiction belonged to the Thakor. The exercise of jurisdiction in these villages was handed back to the Thakor in September, 1904 A.D. in which month the Tharad Thana was abolished. The majority of the holders of these Jamaiya villages were Chauhan Rajputs who were in possession before the Mussalmans conquered them. The Government of Bombay by their Resolution No. 3983 dated the 13th July, 1914, A.D. decided that the jurisdiction over the village of Dodgam in the Vav Thana belonged to the Tharad State and the village was accordingly transferred to the Thakors of Tharad. The jurisdiction over the Bhayati villages of Morwada and Dangla was restored to the Tharad State in 1916 A.D. (*vide* Government letter No. 8312, dated 17-11-1916). After the integration, the ruler accepted the privy purse agreement under which the privy purse was fixed at Rs. 58,500 per annum. This privy purse was abolished by a special Ordinance dated 6th September, 1970 issued by the President of India. On an appeal by some rulers, the Supreme Court struck down on 7th December, 1970, the Ordinance as *ultra vires* of the Constitution. As a result the payment of the privy purse had been revived.

As stated before the privy purses and privileges of the rulers, have been abolished with effect from 28th December, 1971.



THE VAV STATE

The State was bounded on the north by Sachor in Marwar, on the south by Suigam, on the east by Tharad and on the west by the Rann. The area of the State was 750 square miles.

The rulers of this State traced their descent to Pruthviraj Chauhan, the last Hindu King of Delhi, who was defeated by Shahbudin Mahomed Ghori and was murdered in 1193. A.D. The Chauhan clan was one of the four Agnikulas or firetribes, who were supposed to have been brought into existence by a special act of creation of comparatively recent mythological date. The first of the clan was created by Vishnu at the Agnikund (or firepit) at Gau Mukh on Abu and was called Chauhan because like the God himself he had four arms. The Chauhans were said to had come to Rajputana from Abichhatrapur in Rohilkhand about the middle of the eighth century and their capital was Sambhar. (Shakambhri). A few generations later, a branch of the family seemed to have moved and settled at Nadol. Dedha Rao, one of the descendants of Prathuraj, on being banished from Nadol (Nadul), took refuge with his maternal uncle, the Parmar Chief of Tharad whose chieftom he eventually inherited.

During the reign of Rana Punjaji, seventh in decent from Dedha Rao, the State of Tharad was invaded by Mohammedans. Rana Punjaji was slain and dynasty was overthrown. Ranas' wife, a Rajput woman of the Sodha clan, who was pregnant at that time, managed to escape with the help of Dipa Bhil to her parental home at Nagar Parker where she gave birth to a son Vajaji, who coming of age in 1244, A.D. founded Vav to the west of Tharad. Vajaji made several inroads upon the Muslim conquerors, seized several villages and founded an independent Chieftom of Vav.

Rana Umedsing was eighteenth in descent. The origin and nature of relations between Vav and the British Government differed little from those of Tharad. Harassed by the Khosas and other wanderers, this State, in 1819 A.D., sought and received the aid of the British Government, and in the following year (1820 A.D.) became bound by the same agreement as that concluded with the Radhanpur State in 1820 A.D. Freed from the payment of tribute in 1826 A.D., the chief, on the 29th August of that year signed an agreemet. During



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the time of Umedsing a jail was built. He made known the State of Vav in Bombay Presidency¹.

The Rana Chandansinhji was adopted by the Rana Umedsinhji. He was the fourth son of Thakor Dosaji of Dhara and great-grandson of the 15th Rana Gajsinhji of Vav. He came to the *Gadi* on Jeth Vad 11th Samvat 1940 (19th June, 1884.A.D.) The Ranaji was appointed Joint Manager in 1905 A.D. In the time of the Ranaji a good many reforms were introduced. The Dhima Dan case was decided in favour of Vav by which the State got the right of levying 1/2 the duty on the goods imported into and exported from Dhima.

The reign of Rana Shri Chandansinhji was marked by the restoration to the State of jurisdiction over the Bhayati villages comprised in the Vav Thana. This transfer of jurisdiction which entitled the abolition of the Vav Thana took place in 1917 A.D. Rana Chandansinhji constructed a new town called Chandan Gadh and two pucca wells at Akoli and Dedhali. A dispensary called 'Colonel Jackson Dispensary' was started in 1917 A.D. In the same year a Gujarati Girls School called Koghil School was started. Rana Shri Chandansinhji died on 25th May, 1924 and was succeeded by his son Rana Shri Harisinhji. During the time of Chandansinhji a great famine took place. A number of relief works were started. Two lakes called Magadharu Talao and Polsarinu Talao were constructed. A dam was constructed at the village Mavsari of the State. But as the land was saline, these relief works did not yield dividends. The State incurred tremendous amount of debt. As a result the State was put under attachment.

Rana Shri Hirsinhji, a Nadola Chauhan Rajput, who was born on the 19th September, 1889 A.D. was installed on the *Gadi* on the 5th June, 1924.A.D. He was educated in the Palanpur Talukdari School. A number of wells were constructed by this Rana. For potable water wells were also dug in Sundesri Talao. In the east of Vav, a Dharmashala was also constructed. A new school building for Gujarati School was constructed. Mrs. Whitewell Library was started. As result of number of reforms the State was placed in third class on 1-1-1931. The State granted remission in respect of arrears of land revenue due to State for the period before. A notification was issued on 24th July, 1939 A.D. whereby a number of cases and other rights of

1. BHAT KANJI VERAVAT : *Chauhan Kul Bhusan*, (1946), p. 252.



States were abolished. The ruler continued to rule till the State was merged in the Indian Union

After the integration, the ruler accepted the privy purse agreement under which the privy purse was fixed at Rs. 48,000 per annum. This privy purse was abolished by a special Ordinance dated 6th September, 1970 issued by President of India. On appeal by some rulers, the Supreme Court struck down on 7th December, 1970 the Ordinance as *ultra vires* of the Constitution. As a result, the payment of the privy purses had been revived.

As stated before the privy purses and privileges of the rulers have been abolished with effect from 28th December, 1971.

THE KANKREJ THANA

From early times the taluka was divided into various jagirs held by Rajputs and Palvi Thakardas springing originally from Waghela Rajputs. They had given some villages to Brahmins and Bhats. There were 34 Talukadars. Of these Thara, Vada, Un, Renekpur, Bhalgam, Khengarpur, Indermana, Nathpura, Kakar, Kamboi, Khimana, and Amblun each owned more than one village or held portions of village jointly with others. There were numerous Bhayats of these petty Talukdars but the lands were not actually divided by metes and bounds. The Talukdaras and their Bhayats occupied as much land as they could cultivate. They were almost reduced to the status of cultivators. The Talukdars of Thara were Rajputs by caste. The village of Sherwada and Ranawada were owned by Brahmins and Runi was owned by Bhats. Chembla was owned by Kapdis. Besides these were two Jagirs owned by religious heads one known as Oghad Maharaj whose headquarters were at Dev Darbar, and the other was Swamiji of Thali. All the talukas were originally subordinate to Gaekwad, who maintained a contingent for their protection and the collection of tribute. However, the British Government having undertaken to recover the tribute due to the Gaekwad and the Gaekwad having agreed to pay a lakh of rupees in cash per annum, the contingent was disbanded in the year 1884 A.D. Out of the sum paid yearly by Baroda, the expenses of the Agency Police were met subsequently. The Talukadars were generally addressed as Thakardas. Some were required to pay to their Barots from Rs. 4 to Rs. 10 per annum to become a sureties (*fael zamin*) for their good behaviour. The Kankrej taluka did not pay tributes to the British



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Government but paid Ghasdana and Jamabandi to the State. In addition to this local cesses known as Thana Varad, Vaccination Varad, Dispensary Varad and Deputy Varad and Village Police Varad were levied in order to meet the administrative changes.

THE SANTALPUR THANA¹

Origin

The proprietors of Santalpur and Chadchat were Jadeja Rajputs. According to the local history before the Jadejas came, Santaplur was held by Turks, probably a colony from Sindh. After them came the Jhalas, one of whom founded and gave his name to the village of Santalpur. Santa Jhala married a sister of Lunaji Waghela, the conqueror of Gadi and Radhanpur, however, offending Lunaji, was attacked by him and slain. Santalpur did not long continue under Waghela rule. Sarkhaji, the son of Lunaji was driven out by Rao Khengarji of Kachchh (1548-1585) A.D. who took both Santalpur and Chadchat. 35 villages belonged to Jadeja Rajputs. The village of Rozu hitherto belonged to Gadhvis but it had been claimed by the Talukdars of Babra. Morwada belonged to Waghela Rajputs, Uchosan to Maleks and Thakor of Tharad and Eval to Sama Musalmans. The Jadejas first came to this part through Bhuj from Nagar in Sindh. Their original ancestor was Jam Hamirji who had three sons. Of these, Khengarji assumed the sovereignty of Bhuj and his descendants ruled there. Another of Hamirji's sons Sahebji got a taluka consisting of 10 villages in the Kachchh territories. For some years, Chorad was under the sway of Jhala Rajputs. They were succeeded by the Waghelas who were in their turn defeated by the descendants of Sahebji. Thaker Rawaji of Adisar and Jaswantsinh of Sunva were 12 generations distant from Sahebji. The succession was governed by the right of primogeniture. The Talukdars of Piprala, Jakhotra, Mathutra, Babra, and Rasagani were the Bhayats of Adisar, while those of Bakhutra and Ramsangani were the collaterals of Sanva. There were 23 Talukas in this Thana, viz., 1. Adisar, 2. Sanva, 3. Piprala, 4. Jakhotra, 5. Madhutra, 6. Bakhutra, 7. Rozu, 8. Eval, 9. Babra, 10. Charanka, 11. Par, 12. Garandi, 13. Rajusra, 14. Zazam, 15. Varnosari, 16. Kilana, 17. Limboni, 18. Masali, 19. Uchosan, 20. Soneth, 21. Chalanda, 22. Morwada, 23. Antarnes. The Talukdars of Adisar and Sanav had their headquarters within the limits of Kachchh at a distance of about 15 miles from Santalpur and they were known by the names of their

1. *The Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. I. (1908), pp. 199-200.



towns of residence. They held some villages in this Thana and had the right to *vero* and *dan* in many villages of Chorad. There were numerous petty share-holders of the Talukdars other than those of Adisar and Sanva. Their condition was not good after the famine year i. e. Samvat 1956. Some of them were worse off than their tenants. Some of the descendants of the Waghelas had Giras in some of the Thana villages.

CHADCHAT

Chadchat is said to take its name from the Chavad or Chad branch of the Parmar tribe who conquered the district, from the Turks. Probably they were the same who settled at Santalpur. This tribe was after-wards known in history as the Chavad Rajputs, though in reality a subdivision of the ancient tribe of Parmars. Five Chadchat villages were wrested from the Jadejas by Waghela Khanji of Morwada and annexed to his Jagir. The Talukas were divided among a large number of share holders, the chief of whom were Ravaji and Jasvantsinhji. They had all entered into agreements with the British Government similar to that of Radhanpur agreement of 1820 A.D. and the Tharad agreement. They had also signed the agreement forbidding the transit of opium.

MORWADA

Morwada and the villages under the Morwada taluka were under the Waghela dynasty of Tharad long before its sway was extended over Thrad. Khanji, the first Waghela Chief of Tharad came to Tharad from Morwada in 1795 A. D. and took possession of Tharad. The country was at that time infested by marauders and was often invaded by the neighbouring Chiefs but Khanji who was a man of much ability and energy soon established a reign of peace and order. He was succeeded by his son Harbhamji in Samvat 1843.

SUIGAM¹

The Suigam Talukdars descended from Pachanji, the youngest son of Rana Sangaji of Vav, who in 1569 A. D. founded the village of

1. *The Gazetteer of Bombay Presidency, Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha, (1880).*



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Suigam naming it after Sui, a Rabari by caste who lived there. Rajsiji one of Panchanji's descendants founded the estate, conquering Radhosan and its five villages from Ajana Chohan, and Kumbharka and other villages from the Jats. The heads of the family had under them a large, almost independent body of cadets, formerly noted free-booters and allies of the Khosas. Suigam was a petty district of Chauhan Rajputs. The Talukdars were cadets of the Vav Ranaji.

The Suigam Talukdars traced their history from Samvat 1195, when one Ratansi was reigning in Nadol under Marwad. He being driven from that place established himself at Tharad. Rana Saro Gogalji, Rana Bharamji, Rana Mepalji, Rana Patalji, reigned successively in Tharad, but in Samvat 1368 Rana Pujaji was driven out from Tharad. Rana Vajaji' son of Punjaji, Rana Ridaji, Rana Sioji, Rana Merji, Rana Vanvirji, Rana Sangaji and Rana Pitaji Tile ruled successively in Vav. Panchanji, brother of Pitaji Tile founded the old village of Suigam in Samvat 1625 (1569 A. D.) near Nesda of Sui. Panchanji reigned for 30 years and during these years he added good many villages by force. Radhosan, Bharadva and Padan were taken from Chauhan Ajaji. Hegolji son of Panchanji remained in power for 25 years and he in turn was succeeded by his son Chauhan Rajsiji, who during his 60 years of reign added a great deal to his territory. Kumbharkha, Goriwada, Dudhava and Chala were conquered from the Jats by creating disunion among them. Asara and Jelana were taken from Chauhan Arjanji of the Ajani Chauhan family. Nalodhra was taken from a Kanbi who was enjoying this Giras on service tenure. Similarly Kanoti was taken from the Brahmins. Thus Rajsiji became master of 13 villages namely Suigam, Radhosan, Bhardava, Padan, Nalodar, Asara, Jelana, Kanoti, Dudhva, Kumbharkha, Goriwada, Chala and newly populated Tebada near Somasara. The whole Giras was divided between his 6 sons. The descendants of these 6 sons ruled in different villages and they were all cadets of the Vav Ranaji. This State's relations with the British Government were fixed by the terms of the agreements of 1820 and 1826 A.D., the same as the Radhanpur agreement of 1820 A.D. and the Tharad agreement of 1826 A.D. The principal share holder of the Suigam Taluka were Chatrani Surajmal Pathuji, Narsinhji Bhupatsinhji and Maluji Nathaji. The estimated revenue of this Taluka was about Rs.7,509-5-0. The total revenue of the Khalsa and Jamaia villages was Rs. 20,520. The Rann of Kachchh and Wadabet were on the west of Suigam and so natural salt was plentiful. Grass grew in rocky places called Bets and the Talukdars enjoyed the revenue by taking fixed fees for grazing cattles.



VAV THANA¹

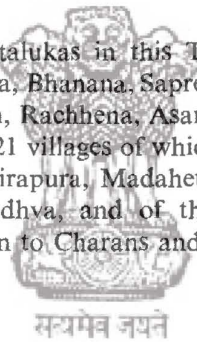
Alike Vav State it was bounded on the north by Sachor in Marwad, on the east by Tharad, on the south by Santalpur and Varahi and on the west by the Rann of Kachchh. The area of taluka was 377 square miles.

Villages Under the Thana

There were 51 villages under the Thana, Vavdiyavas having been adjudicated to be a part of Vav town under that State, and Bhachali having been transferred to the Tharad State. The Taluka of Vav consisted of 30 villages and there were 21 villages in the Suigam taluka. Both these talukas were within the Thana limits.

There were 15 sub-talukas in this Thana viz., Dhima, Benap, Wavdi, Dharadhra, Bookna, Bhanana, Sapreda, Jordiali, Balotri, Kareli, Golgam, Lodrani, Dodgam, Rachhena, Asara, and Nalodar. The Suigam taluka was composed of 21 villages of which 10 were Khalasa villages, viz., Suigam, Devpura, Hirapura, Madahet, Bhardva, Limbala, Chala, Padan, Kubharakha, Dudhva, and of the 11 remaining villages 6 were Bhayati, 2 were given to Charans and 3 to Rajputs.

VARAHI



The Taluka of Varahi, was formerly held by the Ravanias from whom it was wrested by its Jat holders. The Jats, originally inhabitants of Baluchistan and Makran, are said to have come in 711 A.D. with the army of Mahomed Kasim, and settled in Vanga in Sindh. It is said that a Sindhi ruler sought to force into his harem two of Malek Umar Khan's daughter and that the Jats residing there were attacked and forced to fly to Kachchh. Finding no shelter there, they fled to Kathiawad, where the Parmars of Muli helped them. In return for the services at the siege of Champaner (1484 A.D.) Mahomed Bagada gave the Jats the district of Bajana in Zalawad. Afterwards they got leave to attack Mandal, and took it after some days of fighting. Before long, falling into disfavour with the Ahmadabad Government, Mandal was taken from them, and the family was split into many branches, of which the chief were Malek Haidar Khan at Bajana, Malek Lakha at Sitapur and Vanod and Malek Isaji at Valiwada. Malek Isaji called Ravanias

1. *The Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. I, 1908.



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Godar and Lakha of Varahi, who were quarreling with a view to settle their dispute and took advantage of their dissensions to keep the one and drive away the other, who, after holding out for some time in the village of Lunkhan in Varahi fled to Konmer Katari in Chor Vaghar in Marwad and settled there. The Ravanias who stayed in Varahi, were given the villages of Mahomedabad, Javantri and Anternes, while Malek Isaji assumed the chieftdom of Varahi. Talukdars of Varahi were his descendants.

The Jats have always been fond of robbery and plunder, and before the time of the British Rule, they were notorious free-booters, plundering even to the walls of Ahmadabad, and forcing their weak neighbours to buy their forbearance and protection by a money payment known as Vol. In the time of Nawab Sher Khan of Radhanpur, it became necessary to put down their excesses, and by order of the Peshwa's Government they were attacked in 1812,¹ and defeated, their chief Umar Khan being taken prisoner and sent to Radhanpur.

Afterwards escaping from confinement, the Nawab in 1825 A. D., confirmed Umar Khan in his possession. Thereafter under the British Government, they gave up raiding and robbing. Relations between the petty chief of Varahi and British Government started from the year 1819 A.D. In 1820 A.D. its chief Umar Khan signed an agreement like that entered into by the Nawab of Radhanpur. In 1822 A.D. he agreed to stop the cultivation of opium, and in 1826 A.D. was freed from the tribute on the same terms as those accepted by the Tharad chief.

Thakor Shaded Khan, the son of Umar Khan died in 1847 A.D. leaving three widows, two of whom gave birth to sons eight months after his death. The legitimacy of the children was questioned by the next of kin, but they failed, and Umar Khan the elder child succeeded and his estate was managed by the Political Superintendent which continued upto 1873 A.D. in which year Umar Khan was given powers. He died in 1880 A.D. and the estate was again put under management on account of Malek Jorawar Khan's minority. Malek Jorawar Khan had received his education at Rajkumar College, Rajkot. For his services during the famine of 1899-1900 A.D. he was awarded the *Kaiser-i-Hind* (silver) medal. He claimed Mukhiship over whole of the Varahi taluka.

1. The date 1812 seems doubtful as according to Bombay Government Selection XXV 33 Sher Khan did not succeed till 1813.



The second estate of Varahi which was known as Malek Murid Khan's estate was under management owing to the minority of Malek Murid Khan as also owing to indebtedness of the Jagir. Hamin Khan had five sons of whom the fourth son Firoz Khan had two sons. Akhe-raj the eldest died without heir and Lakhaji the second son was succeeded by Adesinhji, who in turn was succeeded by Murid Khan. He had one son Rawaji. Rawaji had two sons of whom the eldest Gaju Khanji died in youth and the second son Murid Khanji had taken education in the Palanpur High School. The management of this estate was placed under the Political Agent. The ruler was granted 3rd class magisterial powers.

The revenue of this Jagir was Rs. 10,000 and the annual expenditure was Rs. 7,000.

Post Offices, Telegraph Offices and Schools

There was no separate post office at Varahi. The Varahi School Master did the postal work in return for which he received an allowance of Rs. 6 per mensem during Thana regime. The post was forwarded to this village from Radhanpur. The telegraph line to Kachchh passed through this Thana.

There were two schools in this Thana one at Varahi and the other at Abiana. Two-third of the expenses of the Varahi school was paid by Malek Jorawar Khanji and one-third by Malek Murid Khanji, and in the Abiana school Malek Murid Khanji paid two-third and Malek Jorawar Khanji one-third. The "Deputy Falo" met the salary of the Deputy Educational Inspector, who supervised and inspected these schools. The Varahi school taught upto VIth standard.

There was a dispensary at Varahi. The dispensary establishment comprised one hospital assistant and one dispensary servant. The Dispensary Varad met the expenditure connected with the dispensary.

Fixed Contributions

Fixed contribution as specified below were recovered in shares from Malek Jorawar Khanji and Murid Khanji of Varahi, and other Talukdars.



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			Rs. As. Ps.
A. Thana Varad	..	..	.. 2,056-12--10
B. Vaccination Varad	..	..	.. 158--2--3
C. Deputy Falo	..	..	.. 73--0--0
D. Dispensary Varad	..	..	.. 810--0--0
			Rs. .. 3,097-15--1

The vaccination established was composed of one vaccinator and a peon both of whom were under the direct supervision of the Agency Assistant Surgeon.

THE THARA JAGIR¹

The first and the most important Jagir was that of Thara having total revenue of approximately Rs. 30,000. There were two chief *patis*. One was represented by Sardarsingji, a half sharer in the jagir, who died in 1906 A.D. and his estate was put under management owing to heavy debt and on account of the inability of the eldest son-Madarsing to manage the property. The estate was managed by a Manager appointed by Government. Government by their Resolution No. 633, dated the 25th January, 1908 in the Political Department accepted the concurrent opinions of Captain W.M.P. Wood, the Political Agent and the Commissioner Northern Division, that the inquiry had failed to establish the illegitimacy of Jaswantsing, younger brother of Waghela Madarsingji. The other party was represented by Godadsing and his two brothers Bhagwansing and Akheraj, who owned 6 annas share in other half. Juwansing derived 5 annas share and Gen-kunvarbai widow of Waghela Bhupatsing owned 5 annas share which share was to revert to Godadsing and Juwansing after her demise. Amongst the Thara Talukdars the rule of primogeniture was not observed but the sons divided the estate among themselves equally after the death of their father.

The Thakors of Thara claimed their descent from Jamaji who lived in Jampur. Jamaji made inroads in the surrounding district. He had got a powerful name before the advent of the British Raj. In the time of Shahu Raja Jamaji went to Poona and brought from there some mercenaries to aid him in a quarrel against the Raja of Dhrangadhra. On this occasion the Peshwa through the favour of

1. *Patanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. I, (1908).



his mistress who was a Wagheli Rajputani bestowed upon Jamaji the signs of a ruler namely Danko, Chopdar and Nishan. Sadhuji pati of Thara had a share in Thara, Changa and Adgam, but their shares were not defined and the jurisdiction of their three villages was enjoyed by the Thandar.

THE SHIHORI¹

Shihori was owned by Palvi Thakardas known as Bhatesaria Thakardas. They claimed their descent from Dabhi Rajputs. They originally belonged to Ajapur a village near the Jasor hill. One of their ancestors married a daughter of a family in Tana, which is at present a small village near Thara. The name of her mother is not known, but thereafter she became a widow and went to her father with her 3 sons. First the village of Undra was given to her sons, subsequently it was taken away by the people of Sampra, and so the family was removed to Shihori. The exact period is not known, but the Thakardas say that they came there about Samvat Year 1712. There were about 125 houses of the Thakardas. Some families maintained themselves either on cultivation or labor. As there were many share-holders, a few according to the size of each village were held responsible for the management for the village and they were called Mattadars. The Mattadars were nominated by the Agency. The revenue of some of the villages was hardly enough to meet the tribute to be paid to the Gaekwad. The revenue of Shihori was merely Rs. 500. They paid to the Gaekwad Rs. 151-2-1 as Ghasdana and Jamabandi.

THE VADA²

The Thakardas of Vada were Palvi Thakardas. The Vada family consisted of many other families who were ruling over other places. They claimed their descent from Waghela Rajputs who came from Deodar by name Ranek Devaji, and married a Koli woman in Atimba, now a waste village in the limits of Vada, and since then they have been classed as Palvi Thakardas. Their ancestor Kamaji came to Vada from Tana about 350 years ago. Almost all of them lived on cultivation and not on any revenue derived from the estate.

1. *The Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. I, (1908).

2. *Ibid.*



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The income of the whole Jagir amounted to Rs. 8,000. The revenue affairs were managed by the Thakardas themselves. Mattadars appointed by the Agency looked after the Government interests.

THE BUKOLI¹

The Thakardas of Bukoli, Arniwada and Bhadrevali, Jhabadia Sadarpur, Lunpur and Dasanavas were descendants of a common ancestor. They claimed their descent from a Solanki Rajput who came originally from Patan to Kalrigadh, a village still in existence in the Patan taluka. When an army of King Ahmadshah of Ahmadata came to Kalrigadh, all the people were massacred, but Anopbai, wife of Vrajraj, ran away with Dudo, her family priest and 3 others to the Oghad forest. They were followed there by the Mohammedans army and were asked to hand over the two boys. This version differs from that given of Kamboi and it is difficult to state which is correct. The Brahmin said two boys were not the boys who were wanted but the boys who lived in his house and were the sons of a Koli ; the Sardar thereupon sent for the boys and they were made to drink the water of Koli. Thus they were forcibly made Kolis. On the entreaty of the mother the Sardar gave them 48 villages, 24 on each side of the river Banas ; but one brother lived in Kamboi and the other established himself in Arnivada and his descendants were the Thakardas of Bukoli, Arniwada, Jhabadia, Lunpur, Sudderpur and Desanavas, who were also styled Arnivadia Kolis. The Thakardas of Bukoli, Bhadravali, Jhabadia and Dasanavas were the descendants of a common ancestor by name Viraji. The Thakardas of Arnivada and Sudderpur were the descendants of Meghaji and the Thakardas of Lunpur were the descendants of Govaji.

THE SHIRWADA²

This village was owned by Brahmins. Their ancestors lived in Punda, now a waste village site between the villages of Jakhel and Mandla. They were the "Gor" (priests) of the Waghelas of Terwada ; but after that the village had become waste. In samvat 1846(1790 A.D.) the Brahmins were re-established by an ancestor of Waghela Godad-singji of Thara in consideration of the service to guard against the man-lifting by the Jats, Jadejas and other marauders. The Brahmins

1. *The Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. I. (1908).

2. *Ibid.*



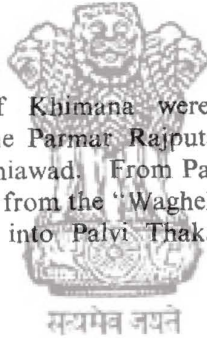
paid Rs. 3 annually to the Thara Thakor. The village did not pay any Jamabandhi or Ghasdana to the Baroda State, but they paid Thana Varad to the Agency.

THE RANER AND SAMAU¹

The Thakardas of Raner and Samau were Palvi Thakardas. They believed themselves to be Jadav Rajputs and seemed to have derived their origin from Jadeja in Kathiawad near Junagadh. One of their remote ancestors, by name Jaswantsing, came from Patan and established himself in Vayad a village under Patan Mahal near Raner. From Vayad they took first Raner and then Samau and settled there. They became Palvi as one of their ancestors in Raner married a woman in Arniwada. The villages of Raner and Samau paid Jamabandhi and Ghasdana to the Gakekwad of Baroda.

THE KHI MANA²

The Thakardas of Khimana were Palvi Thakardas. They claimed descent from the Parmar Rajputs. Their ancestors came to Patan from Muli in Kathiawad. From Patan they came to Khimana which place they usurped from the "Waghelas" of the place. They seem to have been converted into Palvi Thakardas in Bhildi.



BHABHAR

Bhabhar was held by Koli Thakardas. It had a similar history like that of the Kankrej estates. Originally part of the Terwada district, it was taken by force by Rathod Hathiji of Kankrej, who in 1742 A.D. took advantage of the prevailing anarchy, to establish the village of Bhabhar, and by degrees to gain possession of the deserted lands of Terwada. The village lands were parcelled among a large body of cadets, Bhayats who were independent and submitted to no control from their senior branches. British relations with Bhabhar date from 1820 A.D., when the chief signed an agreement like the Radhanpur agreement of the same date and in 1826 A.D. an agreement with the same conditions as that of Tharad. Owing to the very indifferent character of the inhabitants of this district, a very close supervision was exercised by the Agency. The chiefs were not trusted with the exercise of any authority whatever.

1. *The Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. I, (1908).
2. *Ibid.*



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THE WAGHELA VIRAMSINHJI'S ESTATE (DEODAR)¹

The members of the ruling family were Rajputs of the Waghela tribe. In 1297 A.D. the Taluka was wrested from the hands of the ancestors of the last Talukadar and was annexed by the Palanpur State. Some years later it was regained by the Waghelas. A severe famine in 1786 A.D. laid waste a greater part of the territory which formerly comprised 84 villages and the chief migrated seeking maintenance elsewhere. The neighbouring chiefs taking advantage of his absence divided his chiefdom amongst them. After some years one Punjaji, a cadet of the Waghela house, recovered the Taluka with the help of the Nawab of Radhanpur whom he served loyally. The claim of a descendant of the elder branch who returned in 1828 A.D. was not upheld by Colonel Miles, Political Superintendent of Palanpur before whom the complaint was lodged in view of the fact that the possession of the younger branch was dated before the establishment of the British authority in the country.

Thakor Punjaji had two sons, Akhesinhji and Chandaji who divided the Taluka between themselves.

Thakor Khanji Anandsinhji died on 30th March 1937, and Kumar Shri Viramsinhji had succeeded to the Gadi of his father. He was born on 25th October, 1896 A.D.

सत्यमेव जयते

THE WAGHELA HIMATSINHJI'S ESTATE (DEODAR)²

The ancient history is the same as that of previous estate.

Thakor Himatsinhji Vajesinhji, the Talukdar, a Waghela Rajput, was born on the 12th January, 1908. He first succeeded to the Estate of his father Vajesinhji Sardarsinhji, on the 2nd May, 1918 A.D., and later to the Estate of Chimansinhji, his uncle who died heirless. The Talukdar had powers of a Third Class Magistrate in criminal matters and heard civil suits upto the value of Rs. 250.

Succession was governed by the rule of equal partition amongst brothers.

1. *The Ruling Princes, Chiefs and Leading Personages in the Western India States Agency*, Second Edition, (1935).
2. *Ibid.*



BRITISH PERIOD

The States and Estates of the present Banaskantha district came into contact with the British in the beginning of nineteenth century. The British connection with Palanpur started from 1809 A.D. when an agreement was drawn up similar to the Walker's Settlement under which Palanpur promised to pay the Gaekwad and yearly tribute of Rs.50,000.¹ In 1813A.D. the Chief, Diwan Firoz Khan, was murdered by his officers and his son Fateh Khan appealed for help to the British and Gaekwad Governments. A force was sent to Palanpur and Fateh Khan was formally adopted by his uncle Shamsheer Khan, who had been raised to the Chiefship by the rebel officers, and it was arranged that Fateh Khan should marry Shamsheer Khan's daughter and that Shamsheer Khan should manage the State. As the uncle and nephew did not agree they were in 1816 A.D. summoned to Sidhpur by the British authorities. An inquiry showed that, since 1813 A.D. the State's debts largely increased ; that the Gaekwad tribute had been unpaid ; and that Shamsheer Khan had by unauthorised grants given away nearly 100 villages or about a fifth part of the whole State. When Shamsheer Khan saw that the decision of the British officer was delivered against him, he persuaded Fateh Khan to return to Palanpur without asking leave. As a punishment for this conduct a force was sent to Palanpur in October 1817 A.D., and the town was assaulted and taken. Fateh Khan speedily submitted and Captain Miles was appointed Political Superintendent with a firm control over the finance of the State, the revenue being assigned to the State's banker under British Government guarantee.² A fixed allowance was set apart for the personal expenses of the chief and the sanction of the Superintendent was made necessary to all important disbursements. The chief agreed (28th November, 1817 A.D.) among other things to receive an agent from the Gaekwad in the confidence of the British Government, whose suggestions he was bound to follow in all matters relating to the Government ; to subsidize a body of 250 horse;³ to pay his tribute punctually to the Gaekwad ; and to protect no offenders against the British and Gaekwad Governments. In September, 1822 A.D. Fateh Khan agreed to forbid the transport of contraband opium through his territory.

1. No. XIX, *Aitchison's Treaties*, (1876), IV, 17.

2. Government have thought fit to withdraw the guarantee and relax this minute financial supervisions.

3. Later 'reduced to 150 under the Sanction of Government, dated the 2nd January, 1818.



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The relations of the Radhanpur State with the British Government started from 1813 A.D. in the time of Sher Khan Babi, when Captain Carnac then Resident at Baroda concluded (16th December) a treaty of four articles with the Nawab. According to this treaty, the Gaekwad, though he could not meddle with the internal management of Radhanpur, was empowered under the advice and mediation of the British Government to control its external relations and to help the Nawab in defending his State from foreign invasion¹. During the next five or six years of Nawab finding himself powerless to check the raids of the Khosas and other marauders from Sindh sought the help of the British Government, and offered to pay his share of the cost of crushing the banditti. Help was at once given. In 1819 Colonel Barklay expelled the marauders from all parts of Gujarat, and Major Miles who accompanied him as Political Agent by the orders of the Bombay Government negotiated an agreement with the Nawab (6th July, 1820 A.D.). Under the terms of this agreement the Nawab bound himself not to harbour robbers, plunderers or enemies of the British Government ; when necessary to accompany the British troops to chastise marauders ; and to pay yearly tribute in proportion to his means². On the 18th February, 1822 the yearly tribute was for five years fixed at a sum of Rs. 17,000. It continued in force until 1825 A.D. When the Court of Directors considering the States unable to pay so large a sum, the demand was, by the order of the Bombay Government, remitted in full on the 26th July of that year. Thereafter Radhanpur had been freed from all tributes. Its chief in 1822 A.D. subscribed to the opium engagement.

Except Kankrej, the relations between the remaining States and the British Government started from 1819, when much harassed by the raids of Khosas and other desert plunderers, the chiefs prayed the British Government to help them, offering to pay a share of the charges incurred in restoring order. In 1820 A.D. after the Khosas had been driven out, the chiefs entered into agreements similar to the Radhanpur engagement of 1820 A.D. As regards tribute, on the 14th February, 1821 A.D. the British Government agreed that in the case of Tharad no tribute should be exacted until the revenue had increased by one-half, when one-third of the increase was to be paid. This remained in force until 1825 A.D., when all these States were freed from paying tribute. In 1826 A.D. further agreements partly in supersession of the former ones were signed and delivered to the British Government,

1. *Aitchison's Treaties*, (1876), IV, 52-54.

2. *Ibid.* 55.



wherein the chiefs promised to allow no Kolis, Rajputs, or armed men of other districts to live in their territories without informing the British Government ; to give up to the British and the Baroda Governments any robbers and peace breakers who had sought shelter in their domains ; to help with all their force in suppressing the Khosas and other freebooters, and to commit no irregularities in the neighbouring districts¹. These chiefs also subscribed to the opium engagement of 1822 A.D.

At first the relations of the British Government with these States were purely political, but as the Superintendent held the position of universal arbiter, it soon (1820 A.D.). became necessary to place subordinate officers called agents, *Karkuns*, in the small States, with a view both of collecting information and keeping order. These *Karkuns* were gradually changed into *Thanadars* or commandants of posts, officers invested with certain fixed civil and criminal powers. The British consolidated their hold and the Palanpur Agency came into being.

THE DEESA CANTONMENT²

Origin of the Station

Deesa was established in 1821 A.D. for the purpose of maintaining order in the Palanpur State, which had been subjected to many disturbances since the year 1813 A.D., and to overawe the wild Bhil and Rajput outlaws, who from time immemorial had been the terror of the surrounding districts.

The cantonment was situated on an extensive plain on the left bank of the river Banas. The part occupied by the barracks of the British Infantry was on a slightly higher level (about 20 feet) than the rest of the camp. It was intersected by two large and one small *nullah*, all of which fell into the Banas.

Military Station

The Deesa Cantonment though situated centrally in the Palanpur State was within very short distance of the frontiers of the Western Rajputana States of Jodhpur and Sirohi, and its object was the main-

1. *Aitchison's Treaties*, (1876), IV, 61.

2. *Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. I, (1908).



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tenance of order in these districts, and the Bhil country to the east. In rough times the peaceable inhabitants of Palanpur were much troubled by constant inroads of regularly organized bands of robbers from Sindh. The Deesa Garrison was formerly called the "Deesa Field Brigade" on account of the troops being constantly on alert for service in the field against the plundering and marauding chief living between Kachchh and Abu, and to protect the inhabitants of the district against the incursions of the desert and Parker Khosas into Vagad and north-west Gujarat.

The Palanpur State gave land on lease to the British Government for a hundred years. The deed was executed in 1824 A.D. In 1853 A.D. a Gujarati School was established in the Deesa Camp. In 1854 an Anglo-Vernacular School was also established. The first administrator on behalf of company administration was Major Kujet. In the First World War Deesa Camp became completely empty on account of services of army being required for the war. In 1922-23 A.D. the Camp area was given back to Palanpur as the lease period expired. Thereafter it is called New Deesa¹.

ATTACHMENT SCHEME

The Government of India formulated in 1943 A.D. a scheme known as the Attachment Scheme whereunder certain smaller semi-jurisdictional States, talukas and estates were tagged on to the adjoining bigger State for administrative purposes. The scheme had, as its objective the pursuit of a uniform policy in the matter of administration in order to ensure to the attached State common benefits such as education, medical relief, good roads, etc. which they could not afford owing to their limited resources. In Banaskantha district, Radhanpur and Palanpur were Class I States. In pursuance of the Scheme of Attachment non-jurisdictional estates of Varahi Thana, (20 villages), Santalpur Thana (30 villages), Bhabhar Thana (10 villages), and semi-jurisdictional talukas such as M. S. Husseinyavar Khanji Taluka, Varahi M. S. Murid Khanji Taluka, Varahi, Adesar (in Santalpur) and Terwada, were attached to Radhanpur State. Out of all the talukas and estates attached to Radhanpur State, 9 estates of the Santalpur and Varahi Thana had been exempted from paying Jama from the date of attachment. The revenue administration in the attached areas was carried on by the Talukdars and estates concerned. The Radhanpur State had accorded benefits of

1. SIR CHARLES WATSON, *Shatabdi Vishista Ank*, High School, Deesa, (1954).
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administrative amenities such as secondary education, medical treatment, recruitment to the State service, etc. to the subjects of attached areas on the same terms as subjects of Radhanpur State. Apart from these estates and States attached to Radhanpur State, the State of Vav was attached to Baroda State under the Attachment Scheme.

FREEDOM MOVEMENT

The freedom movement in Banaskantha district had not assumed significant proportion as the territories of the district belonged to erstwhile States such as Palanpur, Radhanpur, Vav, Tharad and other small estates. These States were feudal in outlook and did not tolerate any activity which gave scope to the nationalistic sentiments. The Dandi March and other programmes which aroused the public opinion in British India gave fillup to the freedom movement in the district particularly in Radhanpur areas. Shouting of slogans like Vande Matram and wearing of Gandhi Cap were looked upon with disfavour. The subject of the States residing at Bombay and Ahmadabad organised national associations. The Statewise history reviewed below will give some idea of the freedom movement in the district.

Palanpur State

In Palanpur State there was a Lok Sangh which carried on some activities regarding freedom movement. Its workers used to tour the rural areas and explained to the people the cause of freedom fighting. The most important question in the Palanpur State was excessive assessment of land revenue movement. The farmers of village Kumbhasan in Palanpur State united and protested to Nawab Taley Mohammed Khan regarding the over assessment, that was made under the orders of Begam Saheb to whom the village was given as an *inam*. This *Satyagraha* of Kumbhasan had its telling effect and revenue rates were lowered by the Nawab after carrying out survey. It may be pointed out that in Palanpur State there was also Jagirdar Praja Mandal who agitated for the abolition of forced labour and reduction of rates of revenue assessment. To carry out these objectives, civil disobedience movement was launched by the Mandal and its members were exhorted not to pay extra taxes and do forced labour. The Jagirdars let loose a reign of terror on the public. A conference was called at village Rupal and some Kisan leaders attended



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the conference. As a result of this association system of forced labour came to an end and extra taxes were abolished.

Radhanpur State

In Radhanpur State the activities pertaining to freedom movement were not tolerated. Therefore, outside the State the people of Radhanpur State united and established several organisations and clubs such as the Radhanpur Students Brotherhood, the Radhanpur Hitvardhak Club, etc. These associations gave impetus to freedom movement activities. In Radhanpur State itself in 1937 A.D. a Praja Mandal was established which tried to help farmers in their efforts to get their grievances redressed. The Praja Mandal, however, was not very effective. However, after 1937 A.D., activities took a communal turn and revenue rates were considerably lowered in 1940-41 A.D. It may be pointed out that Nawab had ordered that no cesses were to be collected from the Muslims. However, as cesses were to be collected from Hindus only, farmers launched *Satyagraha* and were put behind the prison. On behalf of Gujarat Congress Committee, Shri Natvarlal Pandit investigated the matter and farmers were freed. A satisfactory solution was arrived at and they benefitted to the tune of Rs. 5 lakhs. In 1940-41 A.D., the evils of maladministration and corruption were highlighted in a printed phamplet issued from Bombay. The entry of Janmabhumi, a newspaper which championed the cause of subjects of the princely States was banned in the State. In 1942 A.D. from 9th August, the town of Radhanpur had observed complete *hartal* when Gandhiji and other leaders were arrested. As a result of national leaders all the States of the district joined the Indian Union on 10th June, 1948 A.D. and the Praja Mandal established in 1948 A.D. was disbanded.

Tharad State

The pace of freedom movement activities in this State was on a very limited scale. In the 'Quit India Movement' of 1942, some students took active part and established Vidhyarthi Mandal. The Tharad Praja Mandal was established and a big conference was held which decided to abolish forced labour.

From the foregoing review it would be observed that politically almost all the States whose territories have now been merged in the Banaskantha district, did not allow their subjects to take active part



in the freedom movement activities. Consequently, the freedom movement did not make much headway.

THE PALANPUR AGENCY

Establishment of Palanpur Agency

The establishment of the Palanpur Agency brought peace to the turbulent territories of the present Banaskantha district. The political intercourse between the States under this Agency and the British Government commenced in 1809 A.D. when agreements regarding payment of tribute, etc., were made. The anarchy and confusion which prevailed in the Palanpur State territory led to the formation of this Agency in 1817 A.D. Captain Miles was then appointed. Political Superintendent, and in 1819 A.D. the ten other States were placed under his control. The Kankrej Jilla was transferred to this Agency from the Mahikantha Agency in 1844, A.D., for the sake of administrative convenience owing to its proximity to the Palanpur Agency.

The Palanpur State and the Talukdars under the Kankrej Thana paid tribute to the Gaekwad of Baroda and the Talukdars of other Thana circles paid administrative charges only. The greatest length of the agency was about 100 miles, having an area of about 6,393.39 square miles. It was divided into 15 administrative divisions, of which 11 were States or Talukas and the remaining were Agency divisions. The States and Estates which were included in the Agency are listed below.

The Palanpur Agency consisted of the following States and Estates, viz.,

(a) The two First Class States of Palanpur and Radhanpur, the Chiefs of which had powers to try for capital offences any persons except British subjects.

(b) The fourth class State of Tharad in which the Chief exercised criminal powers in connection with offences. He could inflict sentences up to 3 years' rigorous imprisonment and fine up to Rs. 5,000. In civil matters he had powers upto Rs. 10,000.



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(c) The fifth class State of Vav in which the Chief exercised criminal powers in connection with those offences only and he could pass sentences upto 2 years' rigorous imprisonment and fine up to Rs. 2,000. In civil matters he had powers up to Rs. 5,000.

(d) The following five Thana Circles, under each of which was grouped a collection of petty Jagirdars.

- (1) Kankrej (including Tharad)
- (2) Deodar (including Bhabhar and Terwada)
- (3) Varahi
- (4) Vav (including Suigam)
- (5) Santalpur (including Chadchat and Morwada)

The Thandars in charge of these Thanas exercised criminal powers as Second Class Magistrates and civil powers up to Rs. 500.

(e) Within the areas of these Thana Circles five of the principal Jagirdars had been granted a limited jurisdiction (criminal powers of a Third Class Magistrate and civil powers upto Rs. 250) in their own unshared villages.

In Palanpur and Radhanpur, the Political Agent exercised merely a general supervision, and limited his direct interference for the most part to disputes with other States. For the purpose of civil and criminal jurisdiction the petty estates had been grouped under five Thanas as stated above.

THE BANASKANTHA AGENCY

The Palanpur Agency was subsequently called Banaskantha Agency. It consisted of ten jurisdictional States of which Radhanpur was the only salute State and was in direct relations with the Agent to the Governor General. Of the ten States, four were Mahomedan States and six were Rajput States.

The petty non-jurisdictional *giras* holders were grouped under Thanas, viz., Santalpur, Deodar, Kankrej and Varahi, the affairs of which were managed by Thandars who exercised the powers of Second Class Magistrate. The rule of primogeniture in regard to



succession was followed by the majority of the States and the Sanad of adoption was held by the State of Radhanpur only.

THE SABARKANTHA AGENCY AND PERIOD UPTO 1947

In the year 1933 A.D. the Sabarkantha Agency, with headquarters at Sadra Civil Station was constituted by the amalgamation of the Mahi Kantha and Banaskantha Agencies. Prior to 1933 A.D., the administration of these two agencies was on the usual lines under a Political Agent. The Agency contained 44 jurisdictional non-salute States and eight Thana circles.¹ As a result of the scheme of Attachment introduced in 1944 A.D., the Political Agents of the subordinate Agencies had ceased to be in direct relation with non-salute States and groups of innumerable petty States known as "Thanas" had been attached to Major States². The Sabarkantha Agency was, therefore, abolished in 1944 A.D.

In 1863 A.D. the States were divided in seven classes. Although these classes were abolished the jurisdictions fixed previously continued. The political administration of the Western India States was the responsibility of Government of Bombay. However, from 1924 A.D., onwards the set-up of the political administration was changed. The transfer of States to direct political relations with the Government of India, a change which was advocated in the Montague Chelmsford Report on Constitutional Reforms, was not carried out until 1924 A.D. The first stage in the process was the creation of a new Agency in direct relation with the Government of India, known as the Western India States Agency. This Agency comprised the whole of the area containing the old Kathiawar, Kachchh and Palanpur Agencies.

The other States in the Bombay Presidency which for the time being remained in political relations with the Government of Bombay, were transferred to the control of the Government of India with effect from the 1st April, 1933 A.D., This transfer necessitated the re-grouping not only of the remaining Bombay States but also of some of the States of Western India States Agency and also the creation of a separate Political Agency of the Government of India designated the Baroda and Gujarat State Agency. The charge of this new Agency was added to the charge of the Resident at Baroda, who was designated

1. *The Indian Year Book and Who's Who*, 1942-43, published by Times of India Press, Bombay, p. 196.
2. *Ibid.*, 1945-46, p. 209.



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as the Resident at Baroda and the Gujarat States. The States of Danta and Palanpur were included in the Rajputana Agency the former having been part of the old Mahi Kantha Agency and the latter, part of the Western India States Agency. The States and Estates of the Mahikantha and Banaskantha Agencies were united in the Sabarkantha Agency which was abolished in 1944 A.D.¹.

With effect from the 5th November, 1944 A.D. the Western India States Agency and the Baroda and Gujarat State Agencies were amalgamated and the Resident for the combined Agency was designated "Resident at Baroda and for the States of Western India and Gujarat"².

1. *The Indian Year Book and Who's Who, 1945-46*, published by Times of India Press Bombay, pp. 209-20.
2. *Ibid.*, p. 210.





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PART III

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

POPULATION¹

Growth of Population—The Banaskantha district ranked eleventh in the State in respect of population. According to 1971 Census the population of the State was 26,697,475 while the population of the Banaskantha district was 1,265,383, i.e., 4.74 per cent of the total population of the State. In 1901 the population of the areas now comprising Banaskantha district was 485,732. In 1971 it rose to 1,265,383 (rural 1,145,794 and urban 119,589), recording a rise of 160.51 per cent during the last seventy years. The decennial growth of population between 1901 and 1971 for the district is given below.

STATEMENT III.1

Variation in Population During Seventy Years

Year	Persons	Decade Variation	Percentage Decade Variation	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6
1901	485,732			252,306	233,426
1911	465,036	—20,696	—4.26	242,127	222,909
1921	489,976	+24,940	+5.36	255,271	234,705
1931	530,484	+40,508	+8.27	274,253	256,231
1941	609,828	+79,344	+14.96	312,986	296,842
1951	773,894	+164,066	+26.90	397,041	376,853
1961	996,144	+222,250	+28.72	511,951	484,193
1971	1,265,383	+269,239	+27.03	651,949	613,434

Source : *District Census Handbook* 1971, Banaskantha, Part X-C-I, p. 61.

From the above statement it seems that the decrease of population during 1901-1911 and the slow pace of increase in the population

1. The Statistics given in this section are collected generally from 1971 Census-Reports-but in cases where the figures are not available we have given the figures from 1961 Census Reports.

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between 1911-1921 were due to the famine of 1900 A. D. and out-break of plague and influenza epidemics during this period. In 1971, the population increased by 269,239, *i.e.*, by 27.03 per cent over the population in 1961 (996,144) as against 29.39 per cent of the State. The larger increase in population in recent times may be attributed mainly due to the general improvement in medical and public health services available to the people.

Density—According to the figures supplied by the Surveyor General of India, the provisional geographical area of the district was 12,702.0 sq. km. or 6.48 per cent of the total areas of the State. Density per sq. km. for the period 1901-1971 A.D. is as under :

Density in the State/District and Rank

Year 1	Density of the State 2	Density of the District 3	Rank of the District 4
1901	46	38	15
1931	59	42	15
1951	83	61	15
1961	105	78	15
1971	136	100	15

Source :

Based on Census of India 1971, Gujarat, Pocket Book of Population Statistics, pp. 42-43.

The comparative study of the above table shows that the density of the population in the district is progressively increasing. The density of population according to 1971 Census comes to 100 persons per sq. km. (urban 767 and rural 91), as against 136 per sq. km. for the whole State. The urban density is naturally higher than the rural as the pressure of population in rural areas is comparatively less and the average density is worked out on the basis of the entire area within the revenue limits of the village and not of the village site. The density differs for different parts of the district as also for its rural and urban areas as will be seen from the table that follows.



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STATEMENT III.2
Density of Population, 1971

State/District/ Taluka/Mahal	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Population per Sq. Km.
State	T R U	136 N. A. N. A.
District	T R U	100 91 767
Palanpur	T R U	156 125 2,078
Vadgam	R	200
Deesa	T R U	132 112 893
Kankrej	R	142
Radhanpur	T R U	107 81 497
Santalpur	T R U	41 38 247
Deodar	T R U	106 102 418
Vav	R	57
Tharad	T R U	80 75 376
Dhanera	R	91
Danta	R	83

Source : District Census Handbook 1971, Banaskantha, Part X-C-I, p. 58.

Density of Population

The district is divided into two clear cut zones of population on the basis of density. Taking taluka as a unit, variations of density of population from one part of district to another is significant. Talukas of Santalpur, Vav, Tharad, Dhanera and Danta have density below 100 persons per sq. km. while the rest of the talukas have above

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100 persons per sq. km. In other words, it can be said that as a whole the concentration of population in the district is comparatively very low as compared to other districts of the State. This low density in the district is the result of such factors, as semi-arid soil and semi-desert climate, forests, hilly or saline land and lack of transport facilities. The talukas of Vav, Tharad, Radhanpur and Santalpur are situated on the western side of the district, bordering the Rann of Kachchh and have little communication facilities, while Danta and part of Palanpur taluka on the north-eastern side of the district, abounding in hills and forests are on the Rajasthan border. The towns situated on railway track and former capitals of native States are comparatively densely populated, as in the case of Palanpur, Deesa, Radhanpur, Tharad, Bhabhar, etc.

The highest density including the rural area (200 per sq. km.) is found in the Vadgam taluka as it is blessed with fertile soil, irrigation facilities and adequate rainfall. There are also some important commercial and marketing centres such as Chhapi, Meta, etc. The lowest (41 per sq. km.) density is in the Santalpur taluka which is semi-arid and is only few km., away from the little Rann of Kachchh. In the urban areas, the Palanpur taluka (Palanpur, Kanodar) has the highest density (2,078 per sq. km.), while the Santalpur taluka (Varahi) has the lowest (247 per sq. km.). The lowest density among the rural areas is in Santalpur taluka (38 per sq. km.)

Rural-Urban Distribution—The population figures for the last seventy years indicate rise both in rural and urban population.

STATEMENT III. 3

Rural and Urban Population of the District from 1901 to 1971

Census Year	Rural Population			Urban Population		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1901 ..	445,007	231,095	213,912	40,725	21,211	19,514
1911 ...	429,131	223,826	205,305	35,905	18,301	17,604
1921 ...	455,013	236,995	218,018	34,963	18,276	16,687
1931 ...	489,893	253,506	236,387	40,591	20,747	19,844
1941 ...	570,588	292,953	277,635	39,240	20,033	19,207
1951 ...	722,065	370,517	351,548	51,829	26,524	25,305
1961 ...	925,490	475,230	450,260	70,654	36,721	33,933
1971 ...	1,145,794	590,291	555,503	119,589	61,658	57,931

Source :

District Census Handbook 1971, Banaskantha, Part X-C-I, pp. 61-64.



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From the above statement, it is clear that during the period from 1901-1971, the urban population had increased from 40,725 to 119,589, *i.e.*, 193.65 per cent and the rural population rose from 445,007 to 1,145,794, *i.e.*, 157.48 per cent. The increase in urban population is due to the migration of people who settled in urban areas for various reasons like trade, business, small industries, etc. The increase in rural population may be due to more lands having been brought under cultivation, migration of people from Rajasthan and of greater medical facilities and hygienic conditions brought about by the development programmes under the Five Year Plans.

Rural Population—In 1971 of 1,360 villages in the district, 1,351 were inhabited villages and 9 were uninhabited. The total rural population of the district was 1,145,794 giving an average of 848 persons per inhabited villages, as against 1,051 in the State. The villages classified by population are given below.

STATEMENT III.4

Percentage Distribution of Rural Population by Size-group of Villages, 1971

Size—group 1	No. of villages 2	Percentage to total No. of villages 3	Rural population 4	Percentage to total rural population 5
Less than 200 ..	147	10.88	19,035	1.65
200- 499 ..	361	26.72	125,051	10.91
500- 999 ..	459	33.98	332,476	29.02
1,000-1,999 ..	305	22.57	405,772	35.42
2,000-4,999 ..	70	5.18	207,374	18.10
5,000-9,999 ..	9	0.67	56,086	4.89
10,000 and above ..	..	..	..	..

Source :

District Census Handbook 1971, Banaskantha, Part X-C-I, pp. 62-63.

Of the 1,351 inhabited villages, 508 or 37.60 per cent fall in the size groups of population below 500. 764 or 56.55 per cent fall in the size groups of 500-999 and 1,000-1,999 while 79 or 6.85 per cent are large size villages with a population of 2,000 and above.



The average population of a village in the district is 842. But it is significant to note that more than half the population (58.41 per cent) of the district live in the villages with a population of more than one thousand. It is also important to note that about three-fourths, *i.e.*, 967 (71.58) villages in the district are of a moderately small size, and do not have population of more than a thousand. It is also interesting to note that about 37.35 per cent of the villages are represented by small hamlets having a population about 500 or even less, which together have less than 13 per cent (12.57 per cent) of the rural population. This reveals the fact that though the number of villages is fairly large, a greater part of the population is concentrated in big villages.

Urban Population—From the Statement III.5 that follows, it appears that in 1971, 1,19,589 persons, *i.e.*, 9.45 per cent of population of the district lived in towns as against 28.08 per cent in the State. In the 1961 Census there were only four towns namely Palanpur, Deesa, Radhanpur and Tharad. No town has been declassified but four new towns have been added in the 1971 Census, *viz.*, Bhabhar Nava in Deodar taluka, Juna Deesa in Deesa taluka, Kanodar in Palanpur taluka and varahi in Santalpur taluka. Thus, at present there are 8 towns in the district enjoying urban status. Vadgam, Kankrej, Vav, Dhanera and Danta talukas have no urban areas *i.e.* towns. The average population of a town in the Banaskantha district is 14,948 persons as compared to 34,706 persons in the State.



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STATEMENT III.5
Number of Towns Classified by Size-groups during 1901 to 1971

Year	I 100,000 and above		II 50,000 to 99,999		III 20,000 to 49,999		IV 10,000 to 19,999		V 5,000 to 9,999		VI Below 5,000	
	No. of towns	Population	No. of towns	Population	No. of towns	Population	No. of towns	Population	No. of towns	Population	No. of towns	Population
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1971	..	..	..	..	2	70,438	1	18,360	5	30,791	..	..
1961	..	..	..	..	1	29,139	2	33,949	1	7,566	..	..
1951	..	..	..	..	1	22,629	2	22,616	1	6,584	..	..
1941	..	..	..	..	1	21,643	1	11,959	1	5,638	..	..
1931	..	..	..	..	1	20,347	1	11,225	1	9,019	..	..
1921	..	..	..	..	1	17,843	2	17,120	2	17,120	..	..
1911	..	..	..	..	3	28,788	1	7,117	1	7,117	..	..
1901	..	..	..	..	3	40,725	..	..	..	..	..	..

Source :

- (1) *District Census Handbook* 1961, Banaskantha, p. 13.
- (2) *District Census Handbook* 1971, Banaskantha, Part X-C-I, p. 64.

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STATEMENT III.6

Population of Towns

Sl. No.	Towns	1931			1941			1951			1961			1971			
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
1.	Palanpur	..	20,347	10,509	9,838	21,643	11,128	10,515	22,629	11,631	10,998	29,139	15,291	13,848	42,114	21,786	20,328
2.	Deesa	..	9,019	4,679	4,340	5,638	2,931	2,707	10,646	5,630	5,016	18,891	9,875	9,016	28,324	14,784	13,540
3.	Radhanpur	..	11,225	5,559	5,666	11,959	5,974	5,985	11,970	5,977	5,993	15,058	7,714	7,344	18,360	9,351	9,009
4.	Tharad	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,584	3,286	3,298	7,566	3,841	3,725	8,361	4,365	3,996	
5.	Juna Deesa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,022	2,978	3,044	
6.	Bhabhar Nava..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,827	2,970	2,857	
7.	Varahi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,306	2,767	2,539	
8.	Kanodar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,275	2,657	2,618	

Source :

District Census Handbook 1971, Banaskantha, Part X-C-I, p. 64.

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Displaced Persons—In the year 1947 due to partition of the country there was migration of the population. Some Muslim families from Vadgam, Palanpur and Radhanpur talukas migrated to Pakistan and some Hindu families from Sindh migrated to this district. The total number of such migrants to this district was 3,380 (1,908 males, 1,472 females, of whom 1,839 have settled in urban areas and 1,541 in rural areas. The Government has extended various facilities which included technical and vocational training, special priorities in recruitment to public services and loans to settle down in petty business or trade.

Birth Place and Migration—According to the 1961 Census 216,271 persons (21.71 per cent of the population of district) were born elsewhere within the district, 39,963 (4.01 per cent) were born outside the district but in the State and 32,352 (3.25 per cent) were born outside the State. Generally people go to nearby towns to eke out their livelihood. Sex-wise distribution of migrants shows that 7.68 per cent of the male population and 36.55 per cent of the female population were born elsewhere but within the district and 2.58 per cent of the male and 5.52 per cent of female population were born outside the district. Among the female migrants marriage is the chief cause of their leaving the parental homes. The proportion of females born outside the place of enumeration but within the district is as high as 36.55 per cent as compared to those born outside the district but within the State which account for 5.52 per cent and those outside the State which account for 3.71 per cent only.

STATEMENT III.7
Population by Place of Birth, 1961

Persons/Males/ Females 1	Total population 2	Place of enumeration 3	Born in		
			Elsewhere in the district 4	Outside the district but in the State 5	Outside the State 6
Persons	.. 996,144	707,558	216,271	39,963	32,352
Males	.. 511,951	445,050	39,308	13,216	14,377
Females	.. 484,193	262,508	176,963	26,747	17,975
Percentage					
Persons	.. 100.00	71.03	21.71	4.01	3.25
Males	.. 100.00	86.93	7.68	2.58	2.81
Females	.. 100.00	54.22	36.55	5.52	3.71

Source : *District Census Handbook* 1961, Banaskantha, p. 14.
B-469—11



Sex-Ratio—According to the 1971 Census, the number of females per 1000 males was 941 in the district. This was higher than the similar ratio of 934 for the State. Proportion of female was insignificantly higher in villages (941) than in the towns (940).

Sex-Ratio
(Females per one thousand males)

State/District/ Taluka 1	Year		
	1951 2	1961 3	1971 4
State	952	940	934
District	948	946	941
Palanpur	972	955	957
Danta	921	925	931
Vadgam	1,011	1,004	983
Dhanera	940	912	913
Deesa	935	943	934
Kankrej	921	943	934
Vav	950	932	931
Tharad	945	948	938
Deodar	933	932	926
Radhanpur	..	946	953
Santalpur	..	927	927

Source :
District Census Handbooks 1951, 1961 and 1971, Banaskantha.

From the above table, it can be seen that the sex-ratio, during the last two decades is progressively decreasing at all levels. In 1951, sex-ratio in the State was 952 females per 1,000 males. It came down to 934 in 1971. Similarly, sex-ratio in the district was 948 females per 1,000 males in 1951. It came to 941 in 1971. At taluka level, sex-ratio in Palanpur was 972 in 1951, it came down to 957 in 1971. Sex-ratio in Vadgam was 1,011 in 1951, it came to 983 in 1971. The progressive decrease in number of females suggests migration of women along with their husbands to the places of their occupations outside the district. Over and above this, the development of the urban centres like Palanpur, Deesa, Bhabhar, Tharad etc., is also responsible for migration of people from rural areas.

The table suggests that the district is still backward and its areas of poorly developed resources have sent part of their working population to the industrial areas centred around towns and other developed areas in the State.



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Males from Palanpur generally go to Bombay and Surat for jewellery business. Males from Radhanpur generally join cotton and share markets at Bombay. Those from Deesa, join gur trade, especially in the interior parts of Maharashtra. People from Tharad migrate to Ahmedabad for the business in cotton textiles and Momin males of Vadgam go to Bombay to work as taxi-drivers or as milkmen.

According to the 1971 Census the sex-ratios in Palanpur (957), Vadgam (983) and Radhanpur talukas (953) are higher than the sex-ratios in the district and the State. The sex-ratios for Deesa (934), Kankrej (934), Santalpur (927), Deodar (926), Vav (931), Dhanera (913), Danta (931) and Tharad (938) are lower than the district average of 941. This regional variations in the sex-ratio is the result of mobility and internal migration

Marital Status—According to the 1961 Census, 430,572 persons (43.22 per cent) in the district were married, 212,855 males (41.58 per cent) and 217,717 females (44.97 per cent). Persons who never married accounted for 50.44 per cent of the total population, males being 55.15 per cent and females 45.46 per cent of their respective population. The widowed, divorced or separated constituted 6.23 per cent only. In the State as a whole 41.42 per cent males and 44.52 per cent females were married and 55.14 per cent males and 45.92 per cent females were never married. The widowed were 12.38 per cent and the divorced or separated were 0.62 per cent. The following statement gives the percentage distribution of males and females by age and marital status.

STATEMENT III.8
Percentage Distribution of Population by Age, Sex and Marital Status

Age groups 1	Never Married		Married		Widowed, divorced/separated and others	
	Percentage of males to total males 2	Percentage of females to total females 3	Percentage of males to total males 4	Percentage of females to total females 5	Percentage of males to total males 6	Percentage of females to total females 7
Total	55.15	45.46	41.58	44.97	3.27	9.57
0-9	100.00	100.00	..	..	..	..
10-14	95.68	90.09	4.27	9.88	0.05	0.03
15-19	75.45	34.84	24.18	64.76	0.37	0.40
20-24	33.08	2.48	65.67	96.53	1.25	0.99
25-29	10.85	0.41	86.96	97.43	2.19	2.16
30+	3.36	0.29	86.89	69.92	9.75	29.79

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Banaskantha, p. 15.



From the above statement, it is clear that the practice of infant marriage has almost disappeared from the district has no one in the age group 0-9 has been reported married. But the child marriages still persist in the age group 10-14 to the extent of 4.27 per cent for males and 9.88 per cent for females. Among males, the age of marriage has gone upto 20 years and above as only 24.18 per cent of males in the age group 15-19 years were returned as married. The marriageable age of females has gone well over 15 as 64.76 per cent of females in the age group 15-19 years and 96.53 per cent in the age group of 20-24 years were married. The tendency of remarriage on the part of widowers than widows can be clearly deduced from the fact that 29.79 per cent of females of more than 30 years were widowed, divorced or separated, while only 9.75 per cent of males fell in that class.

Language—Gujarati is the mother-tongue of 96.35 per cent of the population of the district. The 1971 Census recorded 1,219,258 persons as speaking Gujarati. Speakers of other major languages included Urdu (10,885), Hindi (9,411), Sindhi (5,088) and Marathi (513). The number of speakers of other languages is insignificant.

Bilingualism—Gujarati being the mother-tongue of the majority (96.35 per cent) of the people, it naturally claims the highest number also among its speakers as a subsidiary language. It is the medium of communication with the local people by those whose mother-tongue is not Gujarati.

सत्यमेव जयते

According to the 1961 Census, the total number of persons speaking languages subsidiary to their mother-tongue was 26,551 or 2.67 per cent, who have returned between themselves as many as 21 subsidiary languages. The most important languages among them are Hindi (11,001), Gujarati (8,077), English (3,743) and Urdu (1,943) followed by Sindhi (684), Marwari (589), Arabic-Arbi (193) and Marathi (162). Among the Gujarati speakers (16,630), the general order of preference was Hindi, English and Urdu. For persons with Urdu, Sindhi, Hindi and Marwari as their mother-tongue, the most important subsidiary language was Gujarati while among persons with Marathi as their mother-tongue, the most important subsidiary language was Hindi.

Language and Script

Gujarati is one of the major languages of the Indo-Aryan family, and is derived, like other languages of the



group, from Sanskrit. Its history dates back to about one thousand years. The great scholar Acharya Hemchandra (1087-1174 A.D.), who was a distinguished member of the court of the Chalukya kings, Siddharaj and Kumarpal of Patan, has given in his 'Prakrit Grammar' numerous quotations from contemporary literature which can easily be regarded as specimen of the oldest Gujarati literature.¹

The progress of the Gujarati language since the time of Acharya Hemchandra to the present day can be divided, according to the late R. B. Keshavlal Dhruva into three periods, viz., the first period from the tenth or eleventh century to the fourteenth century, the second period from the fifteenth century to the seventeenth century and the third period from the eighteenth century to the present times. The language of the first period may be called Apabhramsa or the 'ancient Gujarati'; that of the second period which is generally known as 'the old Gujarati' may be called 'mediaeval Gujarati', and that of the third period may be obviously called the 'modern Gujarati'.²

The Gujarati vocabulary consists mostly of Sanskrit *tatsama* or *tadbhava* words. However, on account of the historical and social reasons, and contacts with foreigners due to its extensive seacoast and commercial relations, it has absorbed words not only from the Persian, the Arabic, the Turkish, the Portuguese, the English and other foreign languages, but also occasionally from the Dravidian languages of the South India. There are in the Gujarati language hundreds of archaic words of unknown origin called *deshya* which suggest contacts with diverse cultures of many races. But all these contacts reflected in the vocabulary have had no appreciable impact on the formation of the Gujarati language, which has developed its size and structure from Sanskrit through Prakrit and Apabhramsa. In the course of its historical development, its structure had already taken definite shape, form and content before the commencement of the modern period.³ Having regard to the distribution of the different linguistic features, it appears that the innovating areas in the last two or three hundred years have been the regions round-about Ahmadabad which was the

1. SANDESARA B. J. (DR.), Article on *Origin and Evolution of Language*, published in the *Souvenir of the 66th Session of the Indian National Congress*, held at Bhavnagar in 1961, p. 191.
2. Presidential address by Dhruva, Shri Keshavlal, in the Second Session of Gujarati Sahitya Parishad, held at Bombay in 1907.
3. SANDESARA B. J. (DR.), Article on *Origin and Evolution of Language*, published in the *Souvenir of the 66th Session of the Indian National Congress*, held at Bhavnagar in 1961 p. 191.



centre .of socio-economic growth and political capital, whereas the earlier innovating areas were in Saurashtra which was then the focal point of culture. Some earlier innovations from Saurashtra spread over the whole Gujarati-speaking community, which indicate that some dialect of Saurashtra was at one time a prestige or standard dialect.¹

The Gujarati language has dialects or 'bolis' which are only the spoken variants of speech, which include Charotari, Surati and Kathiawadi, etc. A slight local variation in speech and accent is, however, found in different parts of the same district or in different communities which retain special features of their own.

The language spoken by the people of this district does not differ much from the standard Gujarati. Moreover, the facilities for transport, diversification of occupations and urge for advancement in education, business and science have contributed much to stabilise the different dialects in the standard Gujarati. However, a standard language is not a completely stabilised language. It is exposed to the winds of changes in the dialects ; which contribute to the gradual evolution of the standard language.

Proverbs

Proverbs are very short, sharp and meaningful. They are generally very simple and full of common sense. In this district a number of proverbs are related to the villages, castes, communities, etc. Some representative proverbs are presented and explained here :

- (1) 'ગજા વિનાની ગરાંબડી ને સાંતલપુરથી વેર'. This proverb is related to two villages, Garambadi and Santalpur (Santalpur taluka). In the past, both these villages were owned by Jagirdars. Thereafter, when that estate was divided among brothers, the elder brother got Santalpur, while the younger brother got Garambadi. The family of Santalpur Jagirdar grew, while that of

1. PANDIT P. B. (PROF.), Article on the Language and Dialects, published in the Souvenir of the 66th Session of the Indian National Congress, held at Bhavnagar in 1961, p. 201.



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Garambadi Jagirdar did not grow. When there was a fight between these two brothers, the Jagirdars of Santalpur overpowered the Jagirdars of Garambadi, because of their numerical strength. This saying is used when a person faces a powerful enemy.

- (2) “અફીણ ખાજે, આકડો ખાજે, તો યે મોત ન આવે તો મોટા જાજે.” This proverb relates to the village Mota (Palanpur taluka). When a person does not die by eating opium or Ankada plant, it is said that he should go to the village Mota, suggesting thereby that the village has a number of formidable difficulties. It is better to die than to live in that village.
- (3) “ગઢ બિચારી ગામડી, સલ્લુ મોટું થહેર, બસુ બિચારું શું કરે, જનું પાણી ખારું ઝેર.” This proverb relates to the villages Gadh (near Madana), Salla of Palanpur taluka and Basu of Vadgam taluka. These villages are small in size, but as compared to Gadh Madana, the Salla village is big, while the water in village Basu is brackish. The proverb suggests thereby the importance of sweet water of Salla village. In fact, all these villages are not so big and so the village Basu is not as prosperous as Gadh and Salla (Sarala).
- (4) “હાથ ભર્યું હાથાવાડા ને વેંત ભર્યું વામી બળીયું તારું દુધવા કે ઘેર ઘેર સ્વામી.” This proverb relates to the three villages Hathavada, Vami and Dudhia. The proverb suggests that these villages are of little importance. Hathavada is handful and Vami can be measured by palm. In Dudhia village, there are Goswamis and Bawas who live on alms. This proverb is used



when one would like to give little importance to a thing.

(5) “ખસાની પછેડી ઓઢાડવી.”

This proverb relates to the village Khasa. When a person is cheated, this proverb is used. It is said that he is covered by bedsheet manufactured in Khasa village. The bedsheets of this village are wellknown and popular. They are durable.

(6) “છાશવારે છનીયાણું
જેઠ મહિને જલોત્રા.”

This proverb relates to the two villages of Chhaniana and Jalotra. Chhaniana is good in all seasons ; but Jalotra is good in the month of Jeth. The proverb indicates that one village is useful for one season while another village is for ever.

(7) “પાલનપૂરી ફાંટ મેં છૂરી,
ખાતે પીતે નેયત બૂરી.”

This proverb indicates some of the traits of the residents of Palanpur town. They are said to be very selfish and cunning. Also they conveniently forget the obligations of a person and do not hesitate to stab him in the back.

(8) “વેડંચામાં વડી ગધેડી,
વાધાજની વડુ,
માણ તાણ જણ નહિ,
સરખે તોલે સો.”

In the village Vedancha, there was one man Vaghaji. His wife treated every person equally without considering his status, position, etc. This proverb is used when one does not keep discretion in selecting and treating the people of various positions.

(9) “ભૂરી ધરતીને ભંઠ ઘણા,
અબડ ખાબડિયો દેશ,
નારી ઉજળી, નર દુબળા,
એવો ધાન્ધાર દેશ.”

The region on the east side of Palanpur taluka and north-east of Vadgam taluka is known as Dhan-dhar. The track is uneven, full of



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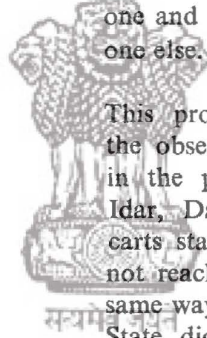
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ups and slopes. It is fertile and produces good crops. It suggests both the fertility of land and good agricultural production.

(10) “ધનાવાડે ઢોલ વાગે,
કુંપટમાં કોળણ નાચે.”

This proverb relates to the two villages Dhanavada and Kumpat. When the drums are beaten at Dhanavada, the Koli woman of Kumpat village begins to dance though she has nothing to do with the marriage ceremony taking place in Dhanavada. This proverb is used when some useful work is done by one and the credits taken by some one else.

(11) “ઈડરનાં અંબારા,
દાંતાના વારું,
પાલનપુરનાં કાગળીયાં,
આવતા ભવ સારું.”



This proverb indicates some of the observations of the people in the past about the towns of Idar, Danta and Palanpur. The carts started from Idar town, did not reach the destination. In the same way, the check-post of Danta State did not give protection to the people when it was needed and the papers lying in the offices of Palanpur were never cleared but were always kept pending. The proverb is used when one expects something from somebody and is not likely to get it fulfilled within resonable period of time.

(12) “ગામ ગામ ગુંદરી
મંડાળ મોટું થલેર
આરખીનું પાણી
ખારું ખારું ઝેર”

This proverb speaks of the special features of villages, Gundari Mandal and Arkhi. Gundari village is a very small village while Mandal is a big village and the water of Arkhi village is very salty and so cultivation is not possible.



(13) “ગોબરકામાં ઘેર ઘેર ફકીર
અને વારાહીમાં ઘેર ઘેર
વકીલ.”

This proverb relates to the two villages of Gobarka and Varahi. The Gobarka village is very poor and in every house there is poverty while in Varahi, one finds a lawyer in every house. This proverb suggests that the people of Varahi are fond of discussion and are adept in making arguments while the people of Gobarka, are just like beggars.

RELIGION

The district has a predominantly Hindu population. The 1971 Census shows that as many as 1,143,332 (90.35 per cent) persons were Hindus. The Muslims numbered 89,744 (7.09 per cent), the Jains 31,755 (2.51 per cent) and the Christians 322 (0.03 per cent). Among others, 125 were Sikhs, 10 were Buddhists and 95 followed other religions and persuasions.

The following is the rural-urban distribution of the population under various religions distributed by sex:

STATEMENT III.9
Distribution of Population by Religion

Religion 1		Rural and Urban 2	Males 3	Females 4
Hindus	..	R	548,359	513,531
	..	U	42,582	38,860
Muslims	..	R	31,527	31,356
	..	U	13,530	13,331
Jains	..	R	10,245	10,557
	..	U	5,357	5,596
Christians	..	R	85	30
	..	U	114	93
Sikhs	..	R	63	21
	..	U	29	12
Buddhists	..	R	5	2
	..	U	2	1
Religion not Stated	..	R	6	6
	..	U	33	21
Other Religions and Persuasions	..	R	1	—
	..	U	11	17

Source : District Census Handbook 1971, Banaskantha, Part X-C-I, pp. 80-81.



The Hinduism

Hindus as such profess both monism and polytheism. The learned people think that though there is one god. He appears in many forms एकं सद विप्रा बहुधा वदन्ति । The vedic Aryans were nature worshippers and worshipped Sun (मित्र, सवितृ, सूर्य, पूषन्, विष्णु), Moon (सोम), Fire (अग्नि), Wind (मरुत्), Sky (वरुण), Thunderstorm (इन्द्र), rain and storm (रुद्र), rivers (सरस्वती, सिंधु) and rain god. Afterwards there was addition of some abstract ideas which were deified into god like Thee (ई), Shree (श्री) etc. During the period of Aranyaks and Upanishads there was a shift towards monism and the idea of one god became prevalent among the Hindus. During the Epic and Puranic periods, there was emergence of gods like Shiva, Vishnu, Brahma and goddesses like Lakshmi, Amba, Kalika, Bahuchara, etc. Due to the influence of non-Aryans' culture, worship of goddesses and gods like Shitala, Baliya Kaka, Vastospati, etc., became prevalent. The influence of the Shakta Sampradaya introduced *linga puja* and worship of Matrukas in Gujarat. Due to the influence of Buddhism, idolworship and temples of various gods and goddesses became prevalent among Hindus.

After the eighth century, due to influence of Kumaril Bhatt and Shrimad Shankaracharya there was revival of Hinduism, and Buddhism and Shakta Sampradaya lost their hold from Gujarat. During the 15th and 16th centuries, there was revival of Bhakti Marg due to the preachings of Acharyas like Ramanuj, Vallabhacharya, etc., and we see similar ideas being echoed by the early poets of Gujarat like Narsinh, Mira, etc., who were the representative saint poets of the devotional age.

Influence of Religious Sects on Hinduism—Though the caste restrictions have tended to diminish with the spread of modern education and diversification of occupations, the religious life of an orthodox Hindu still continues to be governed by customs and traditions. The Brahmans are generally the followers of Lord Shiva and it is customary that some members of the family must perform the religious rituals every day. The Brahmans are expected to perform *sandhya* (twilight prayer) at least once a day in the early morning, and repeat Gayatri or the Sun hymn. Generally, the Vantias are Vaishnavas and staunch adherents of Shri Vallabhacharya who propounded the Bhakti cult, i.e., the worship of Lord Krishna in the form of Gopal. Instead



of the sacred thread, both men and women wear round their neck a *kanthi* of tiny basil of *tulsi* (*ocimum basilicum*) beads. The Rajputs, though partial to the worship of Shiva, are equally devoted to Shakti, the mother goddess. The agricultural and artisan castes are all god-fearing people, and worship some or the other deity of the Hindu pantheon, Rama, Krishna, Hanuman, Mataji or mother goddesses in their various forms. Belief in sorcery, witches, an evil eye and bad omens still prevails, particularly among the tribals and other backward classes.

The Shaivism

The Shaivas observe worship of Lord Shiva in the form of Ling (*Phallus*) and follow the school of thought as propounded by Adya Shankaracharya. Their main doctrine is the existence of one universal soul or *advaita* and of the individual soul or *jeevatma*. Shankara's doctrine, which is usually known by the name of Kevaladvaita or absolute monism, may be summed up in the four Sanskrit word ; 'ब्रह्म सत्यं जगन्मिथ्या' । It is only intelligence, without form, without qualities, without any limitations of time, space or causality, that is real ; and the unity which according to Shankara is the substratum of all ephemeral and empirical plurality, is itself without the slightest touch of plurality ; it is unity absolute ; and as such the highest thought of humanity cannot go any further.

Towards the close of the eighth century, the Shiva worship was extended and popularised by Adya Shankaracharya. He established in India four Mathas² or principal monasteries, where he appointed his four principal disciples as *acharyas* who were in their turn succeeded by their pupils to this day. The first head of monastery at Dwarka was Mandanmishra, the famous *pundit*, whom Shankaracharya had defeated in philosophical polemics and who had taken *sanyast* under the name of Sureshwaracharya. The present Shankaracharya, Shri Abhinav Sacchidanand Tirth, is the 77th in the line. The Shankaracharya of Dwarka wields considerable influence over the Hindus in all the parts of Western India. Among Shaivism, there are numerous sects such as Pashupat, Vir Shaiva, Kapalika or Kalmaukhika.

1. GHATE, V. S., *The Vedanta*, Poona, (1926), p. 23.

2. These four *mathas* are at (i) Badrikedar (U. P.) in the extreme north, (ii) Rameshvar (Tamil Nadu) in the extreme south, (iii) Jagannathpuri (Orissa) in the east, and (iv) Dwarka (Gujarat) in the west.



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The Vaishnavism

Vishnu is the God of preservation and universal prosperity whose various incarnations or *avatars* literally mean his descent on the earth for the good of gods and men. Of these, Rama the seventh incarnation and Krishna the eighth are the most revered. The cult of Lord Krishna, an incarnation of Vishnu, was spread by many Acharyas in the south, of whom Ramanuj, Madhav-acharya, Vallabhacharya, etc., were the most prominent. Shree Ramanuja differed from Shankaracharya in his concept of monism. He propounded the theory of Vishistadvaita. According to him there are three eternal principles, the individual or animal soul (चित्—the insensate world (अचित्) Achit and the Supreme Soul (ईश्वर) Ishwara). The main idea which distinguishes the doctrine of Ramanuja from the rest of the Vedanta schools is that the individual souls and the inanimate world, essentially different in themselves, form at the same time the body and mode or attribute of the supreme spirit ; and as such, they are incapable of an existence independent of the supreme spirit. This is what gives the doctrine its name of 'Vishishtadvaita' (Non-duality qualified by duality or the non-duality of the supreme spirit which is qualified by the individual souls and the inanimate world).

In opposition to the pure monism of Shankaracharya and the qualified monism of Ramanujacharya, Madhavacharya or Anand-tirtha was the propounder of 'Dwait' philosophy. His followers are not found in Gujarat. The form Vaishnavism most prevalent in this district is the *pushti marg* or creed of spiritual nourishment founded by Vishnu Swami and propagated by Shri Vallabhacharya. It is termed Shuddhadvaita as distinguished from the Kevaladvaita of Shankaracharya and Vishishtadvaita of Ramanujacharya. According to Vallabhacharya, another great teacher of Vedant school, it is Brahman, pure and simple and without any connection with Maya, that can create the Universe. The doctrine of Vallabhacharya is called Shuddhadvaita. It teaches that god, though eternal, is endowed with celestial form and power and all visible phenomena emanate from him. On this concept of love for god, devotion and an element of pleasure in divine worship, the sect sought to reject the austerity and hardship of other sects. The places which were visited by Vallabhacharya are known as Maha Prabhujini Bethak and the foot-prints of the Acharyas are held in High esteem by his followers. He and his son Vitthalnathji had visited Gujarat during the 16th century. Mer-



cantile communities of Gujarat such as Bhatias, Vanias, Lohanas, etc., are his disciples. Many religious books of this Sampradaya were written about four or five hundred years ago. Their Havelis (temples) are at Palanpur, Radhanpur, etc.

As a reformist among the great teachers of Vaishnavism, Swami Ramanand from north made a valuable contribution for integration of castes. A spirit of sympathy, for the lower castes and classes of Hindu society, has from the beginning been a distinguishing feature of Vaishnavism. Shri Ramanand began a radical reform and made no distinction between Brahmans and members of the untouchables.

The Swaminarayan Sampradaya—Epicurean principles of Vallabhacharya began to assume unseemly forms which caused comments and criticism from various quarters and gave rise to the reformist religious sect such as the Swaminarayan Sampradaya founded in the early 19th century by Shri Sahjanand Swami (1781-1830). It is purely a devotional movement and has a large following all over Gujarat. Gadhada (Swamina) in the Bhavnagar district and Vadtal in Kheda district are the important centres where Shri Swaminarayan spent a major portion of his life-time and propagated the tenets of his religion. The founder, Sahajanand Swami, was born at Chhapaia, in the Gonda district (Uttar-Pradesh State) in 1781 A. D. His preaching is embodied in a work called 'Shikshapatri'.

Doctrine and Philosophy of the Sampradaya—On the philosophic side, the Swaminarayan Sampradaya has adopted the Vishistadvaita or qualified monism, the doctrine of Ramanujacharya and on the ritualistic devotional side, it has taken a leaf from the *pushti marg* of Vallabhacharya in the form of the worship of Shri Krishna. The Vachanamruta which deals with the religious and philosophical talks of Shri Sahjanand Swami to his disciples, is an excellent work in simple Gujarati embodying his holy teachings. He struck at the very root of mixing of sexes by ordering separate *darshan* facilities in temples and religious meetings of males and females, and thus, put a restraint on those immoral practices which had developed on account of free mixing of the sexes.

He was mainly instrumental for moral and spiritual uplift of the people belonging to the lower strata of the society. After short span of thirty years, he left his mortal body in 1830 A.D. at the age of 49, leaving behind him a vast body of disciples.



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The Jainism

The Jainism preaches *tapa* or penance, control of the mind and passions, *ahimsa* and renunciation of all worldly pleasures and attachments to attain *moksha* or liberation. The Jains worship the images of all the 24 *tirthankaras* in their temples, wherein are also found images of the Hindu gods and goddesses in some side niches, under different names.

The Jainism has two major divisions, viz., the Svetambar and the Digambar. The Shwetambar monks put on white clothes and the Digambar monks move in a nude condition, having direction as their clothes. The major point of difference between the two divisions is whether the injunction to renounce all worldly possessions for achieving salvation should be carried to the extreme by dispensing even with clothes and practising nudity.

Sthanakvasi Sect

Among the sub-branches of Jainism, Sthanakvasi Jains are prominent in this district. This sect is also known as the Dhundias from *dhundvu*, to search. It was propagated by Acharya Dhundi Raj.

The Sthanakvasis separated from the Shwetambar in the fifteenth century (A.D. 1452) on the point of idol worship for which there was no sanction in the ancient texts according to the founder Lonkashah. He was a calligraphist of Ahmadabad who organised opposition to his old masters. He opposed idol worship on the ground of reason and logic. The Sthanakwasis accept the authority of thirty-two and not forty-five Sutras. They do not visit Jain shrines and temples. They visit Upashraya and rely on religious books of preaching.

The leading lights amongst the Jains so far as intellectual activity is concerned in the past in Gujarat were Haribhadra Suri 711 A.D. ; Hemchandra 1089-1173 A.D. ; Jinaprabha Suri 1270-1345 ; Hira Vijay 1527-1596 ; Anandghana and Yashovijaya 1600-1687 ; Atmaram 1837-1897.

The foundation of Terapanthi sub-sect was laid by Swami Bhikhanaji Maharaj in V.S. 1817. He was formerly a Sthanakvasi and when he perceived some difference in the religious practices of Sthanakvasi ascetics, he began to convert the people to his own views. As his teaching specially covered the thirteen religious principles



viz., five Mahavratas, five Samitis and three Guptis, his sub-sect became known as the Terapanthi. The Terapanthis are non-idolatrous and well organised sect. Every year on the 7th day of the bright half of the month of Magha a festival known as Maryada Mahotsava is celebrated when all ascetics, disciples, male and female, meet together and discuss the various problems of Terapanthis.¹

The Pirana Sect

A peculiar sect called Pirana has its followers both among the Hindus and Muslims. It has got its name from the village Pirana, ten miles (16 kms.) south-east of Ahmadabad. It is said that Imam Shah, a Shiah Ismailiya Saiyad, converted many Hindus of the Kanbi caste early in the 16th century by showing them the miraculous powers of his faith. One story is to the effect that by bringing rain after two seasons of scarcity, Imam Shah was able to convert a large body of Hindu cultivators. Another is that a band of Hindu pilgrims, while passing by Pirana on their way to Banaras, were told by Imam Shah that, if they would carefully listen to his doctrines, they would visit Banaras without the trouble of going there. Some of the pilgrims paid no attention to what he said and went to Banaras. Others who trusted Imam Shah, saw in a trance Banaras, bathed in the Ganges, and paid their vows. Astounded by this miracle they adopted Imam Shah as their spiritual head. Those who were actually converted came to be known as Momna from *momin* believers, while those not actually converted, but following a half-Hindu half-Muslim faith, came to be known as Matia, from *mat*, opinion. Another group of half converted Hindus came to be known as Shaikh or Shaikhda. The Momnas, the Matias and the Shaikhs call themselves Pirana Panthis, followers of the Pirana sect. They read Imam Shah's book of religious rules in which Atharva Veda is also mentioned ; and as a prayer repeat their saint's name. They keep the Ramzan fast and observe as holidays, the Uras or saint's day. Besides the Muslim holidays, they observe the Hindu holidays of Holi, Akhatrij, Divaso, Balev and Divali. During the last many years there has been a tendency among the Matias and Shaikhs to revert to Hinduism. In addition to the Muslim *nikah* ceremony, they call a Brahman and go through the Hindu marriage ceremony. A Ramanandi Sadhu named Nirmaldas, preached to the Matias in 1880 that they were originally Kanbis and should abandon

1. CHOPRA C., A Short History of the Terapanthi Sect of the Shwetambar Jains and its Tenets



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their Muslim practices. As a result some, calling themselves Vaishnava Matias, separated from the Pirana Matias.

The Islam

The chief articles of Islamic faith are belief in the unity of God, in His Angles, in His Books, in his Prophets, in good and evil as coming from Him, and in the day of Resurrection.

The Muslims in the district constitute a little over 7.80 per cent of the total population according to the Census of 1971. The Muslims are divided into two sects, viz., the Sunnis and the Shiahhs. The former are more common than the latter. The group of Shiahhs known as Ismailis or Agakhanis, whose Imam or religious head is His Highness the Aga Khan, is also found among the Khoja community in the district.

CASTES

The Present Position of Castes

The main communities in the district are Hindus and Muslims. Among the Hindus, mention must be made of Brahman, Vania, Luhana, Bhatia, Rajput, Koli-Thakarda, Kanbi, Sathvara, Nadoda, Koli, Khatri, Salvi, Bhavsar, Soni, Suthar, Kansara, Salat, Luhar, Darji, Kumbhar, Bhavaiya, Charan, Bhat, Dhobi, Valand, Khavas, Rabari, Bharwad, Ahir, Sarania, Od, Gola-rana, Bajania, Vadi, Raval, Vaghari, Sadhu and Atit. Among the Muslims, Shaikh, Saiyad, Mughal and Pathan are Muslims of foreign origin while the Mehdaviyyah, Vohora, Memon, Momin and Khoja are Muslims converted from Hindus.

Brahman—The Brahmans of this district belong to Panch Dravid. The Brahmans in general are said to be of 84 castes and a feast in which Brahmans of all castes are invited, is, therefore, called a *chorasi*. In this district, Audich, Modh, Palival, Shrimali, Saraswat, Sachora, Disaval, Udambar, Tapodhan and Mewada sub-castes are mainly found. They are generally followers of Shaivism but there are many among them who follow Vaishnavism and a few belong to the Swaminarayan sect. They are separated from one another by some historical events, each sub-caste having evolved from a parent body under peculiar circumstances and for certain purposes which

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have subsequently influenced its whole career. Brahmans are generally priests, but some of them are endowed with land, while some of them are traders. Besides this the main occupation of Brahmans is service either in Government or in non-Government organisations.

The Audich Brahmans are so called because they entered Gujarat from the North (Udicha) particularly from Uttar Pradesh and Malva. They are mainly divided into two sub-castes ; viz., the Audich Sahasra and the Audich Tolakia. The Sahasras are further divided into Sihora and Sidhpuria. In this district Audichs are found in Vav, Tharad, Santalpur, Palanpur, Deodar, Vadgam, Deesa, Radhanpur, Kankrej, Dhanera and Danta talukas.

The Modh Brhmans are so called as they migrated from Modhera, once an important place in the Chanasma taluka of the Mahesana district. They are divided into six classes, viz., Agiasana, Chaturvedi, Dhinoja, Jethimal, Trivedi and Kanoja. They are mostly found in Santalpur and Palanpur talukas of this district.

The Palival Brahmans are chiefly found in Santalpur and Palanpur talukas of this district. They belong to the Kanyakubja division of Brahmans and take their name from Pali, a chief trade centre of Marwar (Rajasthan). Some of the Palival Brahmans are cultivators but generally they are traders.

Shrimali Brahman caste derives its name from Shrimal or Bhinmal, the former capital of the Gurjar Kingdom. They are mainly found in Vav, Tharad, Santalpur, Palanpur, Deodar, Radhanpur, Kankrej, Dhanera, Deesa and Vadgam talukas of this district. Shrimali Brahmans are engaged in Government and private services ; some of them are cultivators. A few of them act as family priests of the Osval and Porvad Jains. Shrimali Brahmans worship a serpent named Karkotak Nag at the time of marriage. A picture of the Nag is drawn and worshipped. They are often called Astamangli. Unlike other Brahmans, among Shrimali Brahmans the bridegroom circles eight times round the marriage *homa* or sacrificial fire.

The caste of Sarasvat Brahman is a very ancient Brahman caste. It is said that they are descendants of Sarasvat Muni. They came from Punjab to Gujarat by way of Sindh and Kutch with their *Yajmans*, *Patrons*, viz., the Luhanas, Bhansalis and Bhatias. They have two subcastes, viz., Sorathia and Sindhia. They are mainly found in



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Santalpur, Palanpur, Kankrej, Radhanpur, Deesa and Deodar talukas of this district. They are engaged in priestly duties, service and cultivation. In religion they follow Shaivism generally but also worship the goddess Saraswati whose temple is in the Punjab on the river of the same name.

The Sachoras take their name from Sachor a town of Southern Marwad from where they have migrated. They are divided into Visa and Dasa. They are found in Vav, Tharad, Santalpur, Palanpur, Kankrej and Radhanpur talukas of this district. They act as head priests in the Krishna (Mukhiyaji) temples of Vallabh Sampradaya. They follow Vaishnavism.

The Disaval Brahmans take their name from the town Deesa of this district. They are mainly priests of Disaval Vanias. They are found in Santalpur and Palanpur talukas of this district.

The Udambar Brahmans take their name from the sage Udambar. They are mainly engaged in the priestly duties. They are concentrated in the Danta taluka of this district.

The Tapodhan Brahmans are *pujaris* of Mahadev, Mata and in Jain temples. Those who are not engaged in temple service are cultivators, traders and servants. They are mainly found in Palanpur, Vadgam, Radhanpur and Danta talukas of this district. They generally follow Shaivism.

The Mewada Brahmans originally came from Mewad in Rajasthan. They are divided into three classes, viz., Bhat, Chorasi and Trivedi. They are priests and cultivators. They are mainly found in Vadgam and Palanpur talukas of this district.

Traders—Among traders, the Vania and the Luhana are the main castes found in this district. Among the Vania, those who are followers of the Vallabhacharya or Pushti Sampradaya are called Meshri while those who follow Jainism are called Shravak. Among the Vania, the Shravaks are most numerous in this district. The main sub-castes among Shravaks are Shrimali, Oswal, Porwad, Modh, Lad, Leta and Dasa.

Among the Shravak Vania, the Shrimali take their name from Shrimal or Bhinmal in Marwar, west of Mount Abu. They were



formerly Solanki Rajputs and were originally Gujjars. They are divided into Visa and Dasa. They are mainly found in Vav, Santalpur and Radhanpur talukas of this district. Generally they are traders. In social customs like birth, marriage and death they generally do not differ much from the rest of Hindus. Their family goddess is Vagheshvari of Shrimal. By religion they are divided into two sects, viz., the Jain Shwetambar Murti-Pujak and the Jain Tera Panthi. Among them the Jain Tera Panthis do not believe in idol worship. Terapanthis are found in Vav taluka only.

The Oswal Vanias are divided into Visa, Dasa and Pancha or Leta. According to Tod,¹ they are descendants of the Solanki kings of Anhilwad (A.D. 942-1240), who gave up the wars for the till. Their surnames, such as Chaudhari, Jhala, suggest their Rajput origin. They are mainly engaged in business. They are found in Vav, Tharad, Palanpur, Deodar and Kankrej talukas of this district. Among them there are the Jain Shwetambar Murti-Pujaks and the Jain Tera Panthis. Shwetambars are idol worshippers but Tera Panthis do not believe in idol worship. The family goddess of all Oswals is 'Osia' in Marwar.

The Porwad Vania caste takes its name from Porwad, a suburb of Shrimal or Bhinmal, the old capital of South Marwar. They are divided into Visa and Dasa. Among Visa Porwad there are both Jains and Vaishnavas. They are traders. They are mainly found in Tharad, Palanpur, and Kankrej talukas of this district. Their family deity is the Shri or Mahalakshmi of Shrimal.

The caste of Modh Vania derives its name from Modhera in the Chanasma taluka of the Mahesana district. They are mainly found in Palanpur taluka of this district. Generally they are traders and shopkeepers but some of them are also engaged in services. Their main divisions are Adalja, Goghava and Mandaliya. All these divisions are sub-divided into Visa and Dasa. In their wedding ceremony a sword and flywhisk are used which suggest a Rajput origin. They are Pushtimargi Vaishnavas, but the Modh Shravaks follow Jainism.

Among traders the Luhanas are said to derive their name from Lohanpur or Lohokat in Multan and are said to be originally Rathod Rajputs. The Luhanas were driven by the Muslims from the Punjab into Sindh and thereafter in the 13th century, they found their way to

1. Western India, p. 465.



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Kachchh, Kathiawad and Gujarat. They are mainly engaged in business. In this district they are found in Tharad, Santalpur, Vav, Palanpur, Deodar, Kankrej and Radhanpur talukas. In matter of religion they are Vaishnavas of Pushtimargi and Ramanuj sects. Their family goddess is Randel Mata, and they are also worshippers of Darya Pir, the spirit of Indus, who is said to have saved them when they fled from Multan. They wear the sacred-thread and allow widow marriage.

The Bhatias were originally Bhatti Rajputs of the Yadava stock, who under the name of Bhatti are the ruling tribe of Jesalmir in North Rajputana. They have migrated from North to Sindh and from Sindh to Gujarat. They have three divisions, viz., Halai, Kachhi and Gujarati. The Gujarati Bhatias are divided into Visa and Dasa. They are mainly found in Palanpur and Deesa talukas of this district. Besides *gotras* or family stocks, the Bhatias have eighty-four *nukhs* which correspond to clan titles. Marriage in the same *gotra* and *nukh* is forbidden. Bhatias, as a class, are prosperous and well-to-do. Divorce and widow marriage are not allowed among them. They are Vaishnava of the Pushtimarg sect and hold in great reverence the Vaishnava Maharaj called Gosaiji. After their return from a pilgrimage some of the religiously minded become *marjadi*, that is, over-scrupulous in the observance of ceremonial purity and do not eat food cooked by any one except a *marjadi*.

Among Bhatia traders, those who migrated to Bombay are well-to-do and a leading business community.

Among cultivators there are six classes, viz., Rajput, Nadoda, Koli-Thakarda, Kanbi, Sathvara, Nadoda and Kolis. The Rajputs have seven sub-divisions, viz., Rajput, Chavda, Chohan, Rathod, Solanki, Yadav and Gohil. They are land-owners and cultivators. They are mainly found in Vav, Tharad, Santalpur Palanpur, Deodar, Kankrej and Danta talukas of this district. The Yadavs are only found in the Deodar taluka. In matter of social customs like birth, marriage and death, they do not differ much from the rest of Hindus. Generally they are worshippers of Shiva but some of them follow Vaishnavism also.

Among Rajputs, the sub-caste of the Nadoda Patel is mainly found in Santalpur and Radhanpur talukas of the district. As they



paid poll-tax to the then king, they came to be known as Narvaiya, and from Narvaiya, they became Nadoda Patel. Some have Gohel and Chavda surnames. They are landowners and are primarily agriculturists. As a result, they are very prosperous. Unlike Rajputs they are pure vegetarians. The practice of child-marriage is very common among them. According to recent trends mass marriages are performed among them as a measure of economy. There is no dowry system in marriage. At the time of first marriage, the bride's father has not to pay anything to the father of the bridegroom (કલ્લુ અને કન્યા અપાય છે). But in the case of a widow, remarriage is allowed. In remarriage, the father of the widow demands a sum varying from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 20,000 from the bridegroom's father. In matter of religion they follow Shaivism and Vaishnavism.

The Koli-Thakardas are divided into eight classes, viz., Solanki, Rathod, Chohan, Parmar, Bhatesaria, Dabhi, Arnivadia and Khamboai. They differ from the common Kolis in having a strain of Rajput blood. Kolis are generally landholders, cultivators and labourers. They are mainly found in Vav, Tharad and Santalpur talukas of this district. In social customs they do not differ much from the rest of the Hindus. They are followers of Vaishnavism.

The Kanbis with three chief divisions, viz., Leva, Kadva and Anjana are found in this district. As a class they are well-to-do. The Leva and Kadva Kanbis are mainly found in Palanpur, Santalpur and Tharad talukas of this district. They are mainly cultivators. In matter of social customs they do not differ much from the rest of the Hindus. The Anjanas are mainly cultivators, agricultural labourers and engaged in cattle-breeding. They are mainly found in Vav, Tharad, Santalpur, Palanpur and Vadgam talukas of this district. They are followers of Shaivism, Vaishnavism and Swaminarayan sects.

The Sathvaras are market gardeners and cultivators. They are mainly found in Santalpur taluka of this district. In matter of social customs they do not differ much from the rest of Hindus.

In Deesa taluka there are 'Malis' or gardeners who follow agriculture as their main pursuit. Their surnames such as Saini, Padhiar, etc., suggest their Rajput origin. They worship Shiv and other goddesses.



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There are three classes among manufacturers, viz., Khatri, Salvi and Bhavsar. The Khatri are dyers. Some of them are engaged in trade. They are mainly found in Tharad, Vav, Santalpur, Palanpur, Deodar and Radhanpur talukas of this district. They have no peculiar social customs but observe Hindu customs. In religion they follow Vaishnavism and Shaivism.

The Salvis are dyers and some of them are traders. They are found in Santalpur, Palanpur, Deodar and Radhanpur talukas of this district. In matter of social customs they do not differ much from the rest of Hindus. In matter of religion, they observe Shaivism.

The Bhavsars are calico printers, traders and engaged in services. They are mainly found in Santalpur, Palanpur, Deodar and Radhanpur talukas of this district. They observe Hindu social customs. In religion, they follow Shaivism. Some of the Bhavsars have adopted Jainism.

Among artisans there are several classes, viz., Soni, Suthar, Kansara, Salat, Luhar, Darji and Kumbhar. The Sonis are gold and silver-smiths. They are found in Vav, Tharad, Santalpur, Deesa, Radhanpur, Deodar and Kankrej talukas of this district. Except the Shrimali Sonis they do not differ from the Hindus in observance of social customs. Among Shrimali Sonis the bride and bridegroom circles round the holy fire eight times while generally other Hindu couples take seven rounds. Out of the eight rounds four rounds are taken with bride on shoulder in the marriage. In matter of religion they follow Vaishnavism. At Deesa there are some Sonis who have migrated from Rajasthan. Still they have marriage connections with Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The Suthars are mainly carpenters. Some of them are cultivators also. They are spread all over the district but concentrated in Vav, Tharad, Santalpur, Palanpur, Deodar, Radhanpur, Kankrej and Danta talukas of this district. In matter of social customs they do not differ much from the rest of Hindus. They are followers of Viswakarma and Vaishnav Sampradaya.

The Kansaras are copper-smiths. There are two types of Kansaras found in this district, viz., the Gurjar Kansara and the Maru Kansara. Some Gurjar Kansaras have migrated from Visnagar and have settled in Radhanpur and Palanpur. Their family deity is



Mahakali whose temple is on Pavagadh Hill. They are followers of Vallabhachari sect and widow marriage is not allowed among them. As regards the Maru Kansaras they seem to have migrated from Sirohi and from other places of Rajasthan and from Kachchh. Widow marriage is allowed in their case. They are generally found in Varahi, Thara and Deesa.

As regards Salats in this district, there is no separate caste among Hindus, but Tapodhan Brahmans, Harijans and Kolis work as masons.

The Luhars are mainly black-smiths. Some of them are cultivators also. They are found in Vav, Tharad, Santalpur, Radhanpur, Palanpur, Deesa, Danta, Deodar and Kankrej talukas of this district. They have no peculiar social custom different from the rest of the Hindus. They allow widow marriage. They observe Vaishnavism and are followers of Viswakarma and also worship Chamunda Mata.

The Darjis are mainly tailors by occupation. They are found in almost all the talukas of the district. In matter of social customs they do not differ much from the rest of the Hindus. They follow Vaishnav Sampradaya.

The Kumbhars are mainly potters. Some of them are cultivators and some are also engaged in manual work. They are of Gurjar stock. They are found in Vav, Tharad, Santalpur, Radhanpur, Palanpur, Deodar, Danta and Kankrej talukas of this district. In matter of social customs they do not differ much from the rest of Hindus. They follow Vaishnav Sampradaya.

Of bards and actors, there are three classes, viz., Bhavaiyas, Charans and Bhats. The Bhavaiyas are strolling players and comedians. They are mainly found in Santalpur and Vadgam talukas of this district. In matter of social customs they observe Hindu customs like others. In religion they follow Shaivism.

The Charans are mainly genealogists and a cattle graziers. Some of them are cultivators and servicemen. They are mainly found in Santalpur, Palanpur, Vav and Danta talukas of this district. In matter of social customs they observe Hindu customs. They do not allow widow marriage. They are followers of Vaishnavism and worship Khodiyar Mata.



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The Bhats are mainly bards. Some of them are cultivators and also engaged in priestly duties. They are found in Santalpur, Vav, Deodar, Danta and Kankrej talukas of this district. In matter of social customs they do not differ much from the rest of Hindus. They follow Vaishnav Sampradaya.

Among personal servants there are three classes, viz., Dhobi, Valand, and Khavas. The Dhobis are mainly washermen. Some of them are engaged in services and others do miscellaneous work. They are found in Vav, Tharad, Radhanpur, Danta and Kankrej talukas of this district. In matter of religion they follow Vaishnav and Shaiva Sampradaya. Some of them are worshippers of goddesses like Amba, Bahuchara, Meladi, etc.

The Valands are barbers. Some of them are cultivators and servicemen also. They are spread all over the district. They have no peculiar social customs. They allow widow marriage. They are followers of Vaishnavism and worship Thakorji of Dakor. Limboji mata is their family goddess.

Among herdsmen and shepherds there are three classes viz., the Rabari, Bharvad and Ahir. The Rabaris are cattle-breeders and cultivators. They claim to be Rajput, who instead of marrying Rajput women, married celestial demsels (*apsaras*) that is, perhaps, Charan women or daughters of God (*Deviputris*) as they style themselves and were, therefore, called *Raha-Bahari*, that is going out of path. Their original home is said to be Uttar Pradesh from which they moved to Marwad and from there to Gujarat. They are found in Vav, Tharad, Santalpur, Deesa, Radhanpur, Palanpur, Deodar, Kankrej and Danta talukas of this district. Among them all marriages take place on the same day. The Rabaris of one or more villages who wish to have their daughters married meet in a temple; consult a Brahman and thereafter fix the day. Among them marriage among near relations is avoided. Widow marriage and divorce are allowed. The younger brother of deceased husband has the first claim upon his brother's widow. The dead are buried. *Shraddhas* are performed and caste people are feasted on the eleventh and twelfth day after the death. Among them there are Bijmargi, Ramnandi and Pirana panthi. Some of them also follow Shaivism. They worship Ashapuri Mata. In Mota village of Palanpur taluka, some of them bear 'Hun' surnames which shows that they are descendants of Huns who came to India in sixth century A.D. (510-560).



The Bharvads have migrated from Central Asia though they claim Gokul Brindavan to be their original home. Krishna's foster-father Nand Meher belonged to this caste. From Gokul, they are said to have moved to Mewad, and from Mewad they have spread into Gujarat. In Gujarat they have two sub-divisions, viz., 'Motabhai' and 'Nanabhai'. In this district the Motabhai Bharvads are mainly found in Vav, Tharad, Santalpur, Deesa, Radhanpur and Palanpur talukas. They are cattle-breeders and keep goats and sheep. Some of them are cultivators also. They are generally poor and live on milk and millet cakes. They are strongly built and of copper complexion. Their dress is peculiar. They wear *fenta*, a short trousers, *kash* etc. In matter of social customs they do not differ much from the rest of Hindus. Among them widow marriage is allowed. A younger brother of the deceased husband has the first claim on his brother's widow. Divorce is allowed. They bury the dead. In *shraddha* ceremony a Brahman is called. Among them there are followers of Shiv and some of them follow Vaishnav Sampradaya. They also worship goddesses. The village Thara in Kankrej taluka is their pilgrim place where they worship Valinath Mahadev, Jashraj Jhajha vada Dev, Shri Radha-Krishna and Hanumanji.

The Ahirs were cattle-breeders in the past but now they are mainly cultivators. They are concentrated in Santalpur and Radhanpur talukas of this district. In dress and other particulars they resemble Kanbi. They have no peculiar social custom. They worship Lord Krishna and goddesses.

Among labourers there are eight classes viz., Sarania, Ode, Golarana, Bajania, Vadi, Raval, and Vaghari. The Sarania (a section of Vagharis who separated themselves from the main body on account of their taking to this new calling and formed a new caste). They are found in Tharad and Kankrej talukas of this district. The Saranias are mainly knife sharpeners. Some are agricultural labourers, and deal with vegetables, and also keep vegetable farms. They have no peculiar social custom different from the rest of Hindus. In matter of religion they follow Shaivism.

The Odes were originally brought by Siddharaj Jaisinha to dig the Sahasraling tank at Patan. They are found in Vav, Radhanpur, Danta and Kankrej talukas of this district. They were pond-diggers. At present they are generally labourers. In matter of social customs



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they do not differ much from the rest of Hindus. They follow Vaishnava Sampradaya.

The Golaranas are engaged in labour work and are grain shifters. They are mainly found in Danta taluka of this district. In matter of social customs they do not differ much from the Hindus. In matter of religion they follow Shaivism and worship goddesses.

The Bajania is a wandering and labouring caste. They are rope-dancers and derive their name from *Bajavavu*, to play upon a drum. They are also called Dholis or drummers. They are divided into Parmars and Naghars. They do not call Brahmans for ceremonies. The divorce is allowed, the practice of levirate is common. They bury their dead. They are found in Vav, Tharad, Santalpur, Deodar, Kankrej and Danta talukas of this district. They are mostly acrobats. Some of them are agricultural labourers and beggars. In matter of religion they follow Shaivism. They also worship goddesses like Kalika, Bahuchara, Meladi, etc.

The Vadis are so called from the word *vad*, to play on a musical instrument. They are found in Vav, Deodar and Kankrej talukas of this district. Some Vadis are agriculture labourers, some are cultivators, some of them are engaged in miscellaneous occupations, like selling grinding-stone or as snake charmers and jugglers. In matter of social customs they do not differ much from the rest of Hindus. They follow Shaiva and Vaishnav Sampradayas and worship goddesses. They celebrate group marriage at the *chori* Mount of Danta taluka.

The Raval takes its name from Raval, a village in Saurashtra. They claim to be a branch of the Valam Brahmans who in consequence of some dispute formed a separate community. They are found in Vav, Tharad, Santalpur, Deodar, Kankrej and Danta talukas of this district. They are mostly makers and sellers of salt. Some of them are engaged in petty trade, cultivation and miscellaneous labour. They have no peculiar social customs. In religion they follow Shaivism and worship goddesses.

The Vaghari, a caste deriving its name from Sanskrit, *wagura* meaning a net and it means tribe of netters. According to their own account they are Chohan Rajputs. Vagharies are divided into four main sub-castes (1) Chunaras or lime-burners, (2) Datantias, (3) Vedu



and (4) Patani. The names of the other sub-divisions are Talbada, Champta, Kankodia, Marwadi, Saraniya, etc. They do not call Brahmans for marriage or death ceremonies. They worship goddesses, the chief among whom are Bahucharaji, Kalka, Khodiyar Meldi, Hadkai and Vihat. They burn or bury their dead. Among them widow marriage and divorce are allowed. They are found in Tharad, Santalpur, Danta, Vav and Kankrej talukas of this district.

Among mendicants there are Sadhu and Atit or Gosai. The Sadhus are religious ascetics. Most of them are poor. There are two types of Sadhus viz., the Shiva Sadhu and the Vaishnava Sadhu. Among Shiva Sadhus there are sub-divisions, viz. Brahmachari, Sanyasi, Dandi, Yogi and Paramhanasa while among Vaishnav Sadhus there are Ramanuji, Ramanandi, Ramasnehi and Swaminarayan Sadhus. The Shiva Sadhus while paying special honour to Shiva, also worship the other gods of the Hindu Pantheon. In the same way, Vaishnava Sadhus worship Vishnu in his human incarnation as Ramchandra or Krishna, either with or without their consorts. They also respect Shiva.

The Atit or Gosai are divided into two classes Mathdhari (celibates) and Gharbari (house-holders) of which the later is the larger class. They are all Shaivas and followers of Shankaracharya. There are ten sub-divisions among them, viz., Tirth, Ashram (Padmacharya); Van, Aranya, (Sureshvaracharya); Giri, Parvat and Sagar (Totakacharya); and Puri, Bharati and Sarasvati (Hasta-malkacharya). They add the clan name to the personal name as Karangar, Hirapuri, Chanchal Bharati. All of these sub-divisions have some members who are householders (Gharbaris) and others who are Monks (Mathdharis). Among the Mathdharis, the Guru-Shishya Sampradya or succession from preceptor to disciple obtains. The appointment of a *chela* is made by tonsure (*mundan*) with applying *Bhasma* on body and adorning *rudraksha mala* covering him with *geru* coloured *chadar*. This ceremony is followed by feast to the members of the caste. Most of them are living on alms, but some of them are bankers, merchants, servants, etc. In matter of social customs they do not differ much from the rest of Hindus. They do not wear sacred thread and allow widow marriage. Their religious centres are known as a *akhada*, *math* and *jagya* (seats). In this district there are three *akhadas* one each at Thari, Devdarbar and Adiya. The *mathas* are at Rajpur, Rampur and Dodgam; while the *Jagyas* are at Thara, Valer and Jivana. There is a Shiva temple at Thara where mostly the Bhavads and Ahirs come to worship and fulfil religious vow.



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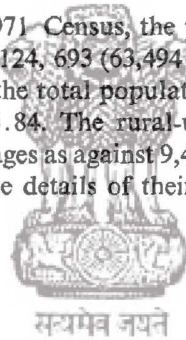
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The Scheduled Castes

Most of the Scheduled Castes are local but some of them have migrated from Marvad viz., Maru Vankar. Some of them also have migrated from south India, *e. g. Maher, Telegu Mochi*, etc.

Most of these castes are illiterate. The percentage of literacy is 11.61 (rural-10.59% and urban-24.08 %). They generally follow their hereditary profession but some of them serve as teachers in primary school, dressers in hospitals, clerks, peons, etc. Government policy of reserving certain percentage in different cadres has encouraged them to take higher education. In rural area they are farm labourers also. Most of the Vankars have joined textile mills as labourers. They are socially, educationally and economically backward.

According to the 1971 Census, the population of the Scheduled Castes in the district, was 124,693 (63,494 males and 61,199 females) forming 9.85 per cent of the total population of the district as against the State percentage of 6.84. The rural-urban distribution accounted for 115,248 persons in villages as against 9,445 in the towns. The following statement reveals the details of their sex-wise distribution.





1981 -Banaskantha District Gazetteers Gujarat State (1317)

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DISTRICT GAZETTEER : BANASKANTHA

STATEMENT

Scheduled Castes Distributed in to

Name of Scheduled castes 1	Total Population		
	Total 2	Rural 3	Urban 4
Total	124,693	115,248	9,445
Bakad or Bant	133	133	..
Bhambi, Bhambhi, Asadaru, Asodi, Chamadia, Chamar, Chambhar, Chamgar, Haralayya, Harali, Khalpa, Machigar, Mochigar, Madar, Madig, Telegu Mochi, Kamati Mochi, Ranigar, Rohidas, Rohit or Sangar. ..	51,941	48,874	3,067
Bhangi, Mehtar, Olgana, Rukhi, Malkana, Halalkhor, Lalbegi, Balmiki, Korar or Zadmalli. ..	20,480	18,362	2,118
Chenna Dasar or Holaya Dasar	4	4	..
Dhor, Kakkayya or Kankayya	41	41	..
Garoda or Garo	6,857	6,284	573
Mahar, Taral or Dhegu Megu. ..	33	33	..
Mahyavanshi, Dhed, Vankar or Maru Vankar ..	21,781	18,670	3,111
Mang, Matang or Minimadig ..	7	7	..
Meghval or Menghvar	13,091	13,045	46
Nadia or Hadi	3	..	3
Pasi	10	10	..
Shenva, Chenva, Sedma or Rawat	3,284	3,284	..
Tirgar or Tirbanda	656	649	7
Turi	3,828	3,515	313
Unspecified	2,537	2,337	200

Source :

District Census Handbook 1971, Banaskantha, Part X-C-I, pp. 84 to 91.

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III.10

Rural and Urban Areas, 1971

Sex		Percentage to total population of the District		
Males 5	Females 6	Total 7	Rural 8	Urban 9
63,494	61,199	9.85	17.68	1.54
61	72	0.01	0.02	..
26,156	25,785	4.10	7.50	0.50
10,519	9,961	1.62	2.82	0.35
..	4	..	..	..
20	21	0.01	0.01	..
3,422	3,435	0.54	0.96	0.09
17	16	0.01	0.01	..
11,183	10,598	1.72	2.86	0.51
3	4	..	..	..
6,733	6,358	1.03	2.00	0.01
3	..	..	..	..
2	8	..	..	..
1,594	1,690	0.26	0.50	..
357	299	0.05	0.10	..
2,047	1,781	0.30	0.54	0.05
1,375	1,162	0.20	0.36	0.03

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The predominant Scheduled Castes in the district are Chamar, Bhambhi, etc. (51,941); Mahyavanshi, Dhed, Vankar or Maru Vankar (21,781); Bhangi, Mehtar, Olgana, etc. (20,480) and Meghval or Menghvar (13,091). Besides them other important castes in the district are Garoda or Garo (6,857); Turi (3,828) and Tīrgar or Tirbanda (656). Details of some of the castes having social significance are given below.

Bhambhi or Chamar or Khalpa—According to 1971 Census the Bhambhi or Chamar or Khalpa is one of the leading group among Scheduled Castes in the district. They have various surnames in this district such as, Bhambhi Chamadia, Chamar, Chamgar, Khalpa, Machigar, Mochigar, Rohidas and Rohit. They are mainly found in Palanpur, Deesa, Vadgam, Dhanera, Kankrej, Tharad and Deodar talukas while scattered over in Vav, Radhanpur, Santalpur, and Danta talukas of this district. The Chamars derive their caste name from *charma*, the skin, while the Khalpas from *khal*, outer skin. They are further known as Rohidas as they are considered to be the descendants of the saint Rohidas. They claim to be Rajputs. They are mainly tanners and skin-dressers. Their work is the tanning and colouring of hides, the making of leather buckets, bags and ropes, and the repairing of old shoes. They are generally vegetarian but have no objection in eating meat or carrion. There is very little difference in their dress as compared to other backward castes. They put on short *dhoti* and shirt of coarse cloth. Their ornaments are either of gold, silver or ivory-plated. In matter of social customs they do not differ much from the rest of the backward class Hindus. They bury their dead. Their priests are Garodas. They also celebrate Hindu festivals. Folk-songs, *dhol*, *garbi* and *dandiya-ras* also play an important role in their communal life. In matter of religion they worship the goddesses like Chamunda, Khodiyar, etc. They also worship gods like Ganesh, Shiv, etc. Some of them follow Ramdev Pir.

Dhed—Among the Scheduled Castes, Dheds or Vankars are predominant in this district. They are said to be the descendants of Kshatriyas. Chavda, Chohan, Chudasama, Dabhi, Gohel, Makvana, Parmar, Rathod, Solanki, Vaghela and other surnames which they have, show that they must be of Rajput origin. Among them there are ten local divisions, named either from the tract of the country in which they live or from their callings such as Kahanamia, Bhalias, Meghwals (rain-men)



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and Vankars (weavers). These divisions are based on the profession they follow. They are mainly found in Palanpur, Vadgam and Vav talukas while scattered over Tharad, Dhanera, Radhanpur, Deesa, Deodar and Santalpur talukas of this district. They are engaged in number of miscellaneous work, agricultural labour, leather tanning etc. They are generally vegetarians but occasionally take flesh. They have their own priests called Garodas. At the time of betrothal the father of the bride goes to the bridegroom's house and gives rupee one to the bridegroom party and rupees two in the religious donation. The *mandap* is erected before one day of marriage. The bridal party stays for about two days. Their marriage ceremony is officiated by their priest. The practice of child marriage is prevalent among them. So after marriage the bride is sent to the bridegroom's house only when she is of mature age. They do not perform *simant*. Divorce and widow remarriage are allowed. The widow of a man sometimes marries his younger brother though now it is prohibited by their caste rule. Except a few, who are well to-do, they bury their dead. *Shraddha* ceremony is performed by the chief mourner on the twelfth day or four days from the tenth to the thirteenth. They follow strictly their caste rules and respect caste leaders. They worship Rama, Hanuman, Ganapati and Mata. Some of them are Bijmargi, Ramanandi, Kabirpanthi and are followers of Swaminarayan sect also.

Bhangi—Bhangis or Bhangias (27,101) are scavengers. They are so called because they used to split (Sanskrit, *bhangi*, to break) bamboos from making them into baskets. They are also called Olgana or Meh-tar. They have surnames such as Chohan, Chudasama, Dafada, Jethva, Makvana, Solanki, Vadhela, Vadher, and Vadhiya. These surnames suggest their origin of Rajputs and other communities. They are mainly found in the Palanpur, Deesa, Vadgam and Kankrej talukas while scattered over in Deodar, Dhanera, Vav, Radhanpur and Danta Talukas of this district. They are scavengers and night-soil carriers. They worship Hanuman, Meldi, Sikotri and the basil plant. Many Bhangis are followers of Kabir, Ramanand and Nanak. Divorce and widow remarriage are allowed. A younger brother generally marries the widow of his elder brother. Priests of their own castes or Garodas officiate at all their ceremonies. Generally they are non-vegetarian and eat flesh of every kind.

Garoda—Among the Scheduled Castes the Garoda are the priests of the Antyajias including Bhangis. Their surnames Dave, Joshi, and Shukla point to their Brahmanic origin, but a few bear Rajput surnames

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such as Gohel, Parmar, etc. Like other Hindus they fast on certain auspicious days and holidays, understand Sanskrit and recite hymns and passages from the Purans. They are called Brahmins by Dheds, Bhangis, Chamars, etc. and officiate at their marriage and death ceremonies. Some Garodas are cultivators, others weave and a few act as tailors and barbers. They are mainly found in Vadgam, Palanpur, Vav, and Deesa talukas while scattered over Tharad, Dhanera, Deodar, Kankrej, Radhanpur and Santalpur talukas of this district. Divorce and widow marriage are allowed. Their dead are buried and they perform *sharddhas*. They worship Hindu gods and goddesses and the *basil* plant. Some are Ramanandi, Kabirpanthi and are followers of the Pranami sect. Their family goddesses are Bhavani, Tulja Bhavani, Saraswati, Gayatri, Sharda, Durga, etc. Sharda is their main family goddess.

The Scheduled Tribes

The main Scheduled tribe in the district is Bhil. Formerly they were known as the animistic tribes and now they are described as the Raniparaj., i.e. people who dwell in the forests, the hills and the border lands.

With development activities in the tribal tracks and increasing communication with Hindus, the tribal people are no longer isolated. In religion, language, habits and social customs, they are slowly integrating with the main stream of social life in the district. Slowly they are being taken in the fold of the Hindu community to which they bear close linguistic affinities. Most of the tribals are illiterate. In 1971 the percentage of literacy of the Scheduled tribes was 4.01 per cent (rural 3.61 % and urban 14.42 %).

Tribals generally live on agriculture, some of them collect forest produce while some of them are agricultural labourers and now with the spread of education some are engaged in Government and non-Government services.

According to the 1971 Census, the Scheduled tribes claim 77,758 (40,287 males and 37,471 females) forming 6.15 per cent of the total population of the district as against the State percentage of 13.99. The rural-urban distribution accounted for 74,886 persons in villages as against 2,872 in the towns. The following statement reveals the details of their sex-wise distribution in the population.



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STATEMENT III.11

Scheduled Tribes Distributed in to Rural And Urban Areas, 1971

Name of Scheduled Tribes (1)	Total Population			Sex		Percentage to total Population of the district		
	Total (2)	Rural (3)	Urban (4)	Males (5)	Females (6)	Total (7)	Rural (8)	Urban (9)
Total	77,758	74,886	2,872	40,287	37,471	6.15	11.49	0.47
Bhil, including Bhil Garasia, Dholi Bhil, Dungri Bhil, Dungri, Garasia Mewasi Bhil, Rawal Bhil, tadvi Bhil, Bhagalia, Bhilala, Pawra, Vasava and Vasave .. }	76,986	74,282	2,704	39,791	37,195	6.08	11.40	0.44
Dhanka, Includ- ing Tadvi, Tetaria and Valvi ..	8	4	4	5	3	..	..	..
Gamit or Gamta or Gaviti, includ- ing Mavchi, Padvi Vasava, Vasave and Valvi ..	5	5	..	4	1	..	..	..
Koli Dhor, Tokre Koli, Kolcha or Kolgha ..	12	12	..	8	4	..	..	..
Naikda or Nayaka, including Choliwala Nayaka, Kapadia Nayaka, Mota Naya- ka and Nana Nayaka	211	204	7	116	95	0.02	0.03	..
Pardhi, including Advichincher and Phanse Pardhi ..	21	21	..	7	14	..	..	..
Varli ..	6	6	..	2	4	..	..	..
Unspecified ..	509	352	157	354	155	0.05	0.06	0.03

Source :

District Census Handbook 1971, Banaskantha, Part X-C-I, pp. 94 to 96.



The predominant Scheduled Tribe in the district is Bhil (76,986) including Bhil Garasia, Dholi Bhil, Dugri Bhil or gameti, Dungri Garasia, Mewasi Bhil, Raval Bhil, Tadvi Bhil, Bhagalia, Bhilala, Pawra, Vasava and Vasave. Details about the Bhil is given below :

Bhils—It has been said that the word 'Bhil' is derived from word 'Bil', of the Dravidian language. The Dravidian word *billee*, means a bow, the characteristic and favourite weapon of Bhils. According to the Sanskrit scholars, the word is derived from the root *bhil* meaning to cut. Bhils notified as a Scheduled Tribe, are a martial people living in forest areas, who were once feared and hated by the people of the plains, as Enthoven¹ so aptly points out. But, at the same time, the two have known each other from time immemorial through contacts or conflicts. Even the ancient religious literature has many noble and heroic Bhil characters. Two things are, however, certain. There have been many Bhil kingdoms in the region of their present habitation, and when opportunities came their way, they also made inroads in the neighbouring plains, capturing and holding parts of them. Thus, expanding and receding, they went on till, in the long run, their power dwindled in proportion to the rise of the Rajput power and establishment of orderly and stable administration.

The Bhils are hardy and enterprising, and as sagacious in daily conduct as they were secret and speedy when on one of their robbing expeditions. They speak a dialect composed of Rajasthani and Gujarati, which is extremely difficult to understand. They worship stones covered with red lead and oil. They believe firmly in witchcraft, and are much addicted to witch-swinging.²

The Gujarat Bhils belong to two main divisions, viz., part-Rajput and the other of the pure Bhil descent. The Bhil sub-clans are the Bhil Garasia, Dholi Bhil, Dungari Bhil or Gameti, Dungari Garasia, Mewasi Bhil, Rawal Bhil, Tadvi, Bhagalia, Bhilala, Pawara, Vasava or Vasave etc. They have many surnames, viz., Dabhi, Gamar, Kheir, Rathod, Bumadiya, Taral, Makvana, Parmar, Dama, Baror, Rohisa, Davda, Gharona, Ounsiya, Kateriya, Angari, Morajiya, Rabakariya, Pardhi, etc. They are mainly concentrated in Danta and Palanpur talukas while in small number they are found in Dhanera, Deesa and Vadgam talukas of this district. The

1. ENTHOVEN R. E., *The Tribes and Castes of Bombay*, Vol. I, 1920, p. 152.
2. *The Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Vol. XVII, 1908, p. 17.



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Dungari Bhils of Danta taluka are also known as Gametis while the Bhils of Virampur and Amirgadh areas of the Palanpur taluka are known as Bhil Garasias. Generally they are cultivators and some of them are labourers also. Their male members have names like kodar, Loba, Bhikha, Pako, Karno, Somo, Dhaniyo, Magno, Mohno, Lalji, Moti, Gokaliyo, Mavo, Ladu, etc., while their females have names like Madhali, Paniben, Soni, Devuben, Bhurki, Meli, Gujar, etc. Among them the grandfather of the mother or the father is known as Bhoto; sister is called Bai; father and mother are known as Ba and Aai respectively; the elder brother is known as Mota Dada; the father-in-law is known as Haharo while the mother-in-law is known as Ma or Chhasu. The sister of the husband is called by her name.

They are fond of hunting rabbits, Deers, etc. Swimming and playing the Ambli-Pipali are very common. Cattle grazing is their subsidiary activity.

The men are muscular, sturdy and of a medium height. The women are well built, but have coarse irregular features. The men wear their hair long, while the women fasten it in braids or plaits. Most of them now have given up their predatory habits and lead a peaceful life. In a Bhil family, the women besides attending to the household duties help their males in the fields.

Generally, the Bhils have two meals, one at about ten in the morning and the other after sunset. The morning meal consists of maizebread. In the evening maize gram is boiled in water and eaten with butter milk. The every day food of a well-to-do Bhil is rice cooked with salt and mixed in buttermilk, and of an ordinary Bhil, maize or *bajri rotla* and buttermilk, boiled with chillies and sometimes split peas or beans and gram-mixed with vegetables. In monsoon they use a *kand* as food and its flour is used if it is fresh. They eat flesh of animals and birds. The Bhil's usual dress is merely a *khamis*, a *dhoti* or a cloth round the loin and a red coloured *fento* or long strip twisted round the head. The males put on *bedi* on feet, *chhari* on waist, silver button on their *khamis*. Their other ornaments are *kandoro*, *lavangiya*, *vinti*, golden *tumpiya*, silver *langer* and golden *ganthoda*. They also keep a bow and arrow with them. The women usually wear a voluminous *ghaghara* of ten meters cloth (petticoat,) a bodice, *choli* and a *sari* or *odhani* wrapped round the body and brought over the head. They tattoo their faces and pierce their ears and noses. Bracelets of tin or brass cover the arm from the wrist to the elbow. Bangles of glass and lac are also



worn. Their other ornaments are Damani, Hansdi, Vadlo, Baju, Chudi, Ambaliya, Kadla, Chhada, Toda, Kada, Kandoro, Anguthiya, Vinti, Chuni, Vali, Champu, Lavingiya or Buttiya, Oganiya, Pudio of pearls, Boriyu, Thoriya, Zanzar, Goriya, etc. They also put on ornaments prepared from creeper, viz., *mankoda* on ears, *charakli* around neck and put on *moriyu* and *kesuda* flower on their heads.

Formerly a vagrant people, without settled habitation, they have now, for the most part, settled down in villages. In villages they generally reside in the field. If they have big family they build cluster of huts in the same field. Their huts are generally built of stone, and the floor is covered with cowdung emulsion. The roofs of bamboo sticks are covered with flat tiles. Of household kit the stock is very limited. It consists of grinding-mill, a cot and few utensils and agricultural simple tools. The family of a well-to-do Bhil has generally a pair of bullocks, buffalo, some sheep and goats and a number of fowls, a cart and field tools including a plough, a weeder or *kharpi*, and hoe or *kodali*. Financial assistance is provided by the Government for the purchase of bullocks and carts. Because of this scheme several Bhils now own carts and bullocks. In their huts, besides the sleeping mat, they have a grinding-mill and a roll of blanket and a few pots and cups, most of which are of clay. Every house has a number of large earthen jars, to store grain and at least one brass mug or *lota*; many have one or two brass plates or *thalis* and large circular bamboo baskets or *porsas* to hold grain. The baskets are generally kept outside the hut. Now with gainful employment, their purchasing power has increased and they are able to purchase brass or copper vessels, food and clothes.

In the life of a Bhil, after birth, there are four chief ceremonies, viz. naming, shaving, marriage and death. Five days after birth, the child and mother are bathed and the child is given name. Between two and five years, the head of the child is shaved. The child's aunt takes the hair in her lap and wrapping it in her clothes, receives a cow, a buffalo, or other present from the child's father. A well-to-do Bhil generally gets his son married at the age of fourteen or fifteen and his daughter, before she is twelve. But as a rule, marriage seldom takes place before the boy is twenty and the girl fifteen. The choice is made by the relations of the bride and bridegroom. Generally the Brahman performs their marriage ceremony. If he is not available one of the Adivasis officiates at their marriage ceremony. Before marriage the bride's father gives turban to the bridegroom. After betrothal ceremony the in-laws visit each others village



to dine. On second or third day they send *vatpatra* to the brides house, and give ornaments to the bride. They give clothes on the marriage day. The bridegroom's brother or cousin brother goes with the *pithivalu makainu bhadaku* as a symbol of marriage invitation card. This *pithi pottku* is sent to the relatives or to persons of the village who are invited to join the marriage party. The day and time of the bridal party are fixed by one or two nearer relatives. The expenditure on part of the bride's father is limited only to feeding the relatives sides. During marriage the party is served with food twice. On the marriage day the bride and bridegroom are rubbed with yellow turmeric powder in the morning. The bridegroom is bathed and has his eyes and cheeks marked with soot. He wears a turban, a long coat of country cloth, a waist cloth or *dhotar*, and keeps a sword. The party starts on foot with a fanfare of drums and cymbals for the bride's village. Generally the all villagers participate in the *jan* except one who stays at home. The party takes with them 10 to 15 maunds of wheat *rotla* for the relations of the bride. The women follow singing in clothes of variegated colours. On reaching the bride's house, the bridegroom's friends are seated on one side of a *mandva* or booth, built in front of the door. In marriage the bride puts on *sadlo*, *ghagharo* and *choli*. The *vadlo*, *damni*, *jela*, *kadla*, *toda*, *kambiya* and a golden *chunk* are the bride's marriage ornaments. The bride is then led in by her mother and seated opposite the bridegroom. Their hands are joined and the hems of their garments tied. Then while the women sing songs, the bride and bridegroom walk together twelve times round a branch of the *samri* (*Prosopis spicigera*) tree placed in the middle of the booth. When this is over, the bride and bridegroom feed each other with wheat and molasses. Then the knot is untied and after the party has taken a dinner, the garments of the bride and bridegroom are again tied and the bridegroom taking the bride with him returns to his house. The marriage expenses vary in the case of the bridegroom and the bride, according to their social status and economic condition. The brides father takes Rs. 500 to 1,000 in the marriage from the bridegroom's father. If any one brings bride without marriage ceremony then the father of the bride takes Rs. 1,000 to 2,000 from the bridegroom's father or bridegroom. They generally spend Rs. 1,000 for ornaments and about Rs. 300 to 400 for clothes. Thus among them the bridegroom has to incur more marriage expenditure than the bride. A man may marry a second or third wife in the lifetime of the first. An additional wife is taken out of economic necessity. A woman marries again, not only if her husbands dies but if she gets tired of him and can prevail upon another man to take her



and pay her husband his marriage expenses. The children, if there are any, stay with the father. A Bhil youth and girl, anxious to marry but unable to find the necessary amount elope with previous secret arrangement from some fair or a wedding feast. She then lives with him as his wife, and when her parents come in search, an agreement is made by the parents of the bridegroom for paying the dowry by instalments, or in some other way suited to the bridegroom's means. Among them the divorce can be obtained after a week of marriage, and the bridegroom's party has to pay some amount as fixed by their *panch* and also feed the caste-people in which the wine and mutton are an important item.

When a Bhil dies, the relations, bathing the body, place a waist cloth, *dhotar*, over it, and laying it on a rough bamboo bier carry it to the cremation ground. The son or the nearest relation of the deceased, lights the pyre. When the body is half burnt, the mourners bathe and returning to the deceased's house, smoke tobacco for a short time, and after saluting each other, return to their huts. As soon as the deceased's family can raise enough money, the anniversary day is observed, when liquor is sometimes used. If the deceased was a man of means, a year or two after his death, his relations go to a stone mason and make him cut on a stone slab the figure of a man on horseback with a spear in his hand. When the stone is so carved, the mason is paid by way of gift a cow or she-buffalo. The stone is washed, daubed with red powder, covered with a white cloth, and taken to the village spirit-yard or *devasthan*. After the goat is killed, its blood is sprinkled on the stone, and its flesh is cooked and eaten. The child of more than three years age is cremated while child below three years is buried. In the monsoon season they bury the dead child.

After the death of a person, the relatives perform small *shraddha* ceremony and then after 40-50 years they perform communal *shraddha*. Moreover, every house keeps one ancestor '*pat*' whom they worship once in a year.

In matter of religion they are animistic and they have no peculiar belief, yet they prefer to worship natural elements. They also worship Shankar, Kal-Bhairav, Ganesh, Vir, Lord Krishna, Ram, Hanuman, Bhathi-Khatri, goddess Ambaji, Kalika, Shitla, etc. They call Lord Krishna as Karo Bavji. Their family goddess is Sudmata, whom they worship in month of Vaishakh. Sometimes they keep



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vow of *dungaro navravvo*. On the bright half of the Bhadarva, they fill *pad* and arrange *bhajans* when the *panch* is also meet. They celebrate many Hindu festivals, viz., Holi, Dassera, Balev and New Year Day. Before the 15 days of the Holi festival the Adivasi Bhils gather and dance with their women. During the Dassera festival 10 to 15 village-people gather together, take wine and eat mutton with *rotla* under a banyan tree after 5-00 p.m. In the morning they take breakfast while in after-noon they dance with each other. On the day of the Balev the village people gather at the Mukhi's house and pass this day in singing *bhajans* or devotional songs. In the evening they sacrifice one *bokada* and distribute it's meat as *prasad* among the people. On the New Year Day all the Adivasis perform *bhajans* at their own home and then go to the Mukhi's house and take *khir* or mutton as a *prasad*. They also participate in the various fairs called the Hadad fair, Vasariya's fair, Koteswar fair, Ambaji fair, the Gor fair, the Shiyava fair, the Jaberivala fair, etc.

Muslims

The Banaskantha district is far from sea and naturally foreign Muslims like Arabs, etc., were not found settled here upto the mediaeval age. After 1400 A.D. during the reign of Gujarat Sultans some Muslims entered and settled in this district along with the royal family of Lohani Pathans from Jhalore and Babis from Afghanistan who had carved out their principalities in this area. Secondly, it is interesting to note that unlike other parts of the State, Muslims are mostly found scattered in the rural areas in this district, as a good number of them were converted from the cultivating communities, particularly, Kanbis. Muslims of this district are engaged in four types of occupations, (1) Warriors (soldiers, *sipahis*, watchmen), (2) Traders, (3) Cultivators and (4) Labourers. Muslims who came with the Muslim rulers had martial traits and so they were engaged as soldiers, *sipahis*, watchmen, etc. Urban converts from the upper strata of society with surnames such as Trivedi, Gandhi, Vyas, etc., came from Vania, Brahman, Lohana and Bhatia castes. Most of these people are merchants and money-lenders such as Vohoras, Memons, etc. Muslims converted from peasantry are Mumans or Momins. They are both Shiahs and Sunnis and they belong to Ismail communities and are followers of Agakhan or Pir Mashayakh or of the twelve Imams. Some of the Muslims in the rural areas who have not enough



land, work as agricultural labourers also. Due to pressure on land in rural areas some of the Mumans have taken to dairy farming and work as milk vendors in Bombay and are also drivers of carriages and taxies. The Jats of Banaskantha district originally migrated from Sind and in the past were famous as pirates and decoits. Now they have taken to agriculture. Still they have not lost their original traits of way laying a person. Thus, the Muslims of Banaskantha district present a picture of mixed society of advanced as well as backward Muslims.

Among the Muslims of this district, in addition to the four main divisions such as Saiyad, Shaikh, Pathan and Mughal there are several classes. Almost all of them are of converted Hindus. Of these the chief are Mehdaviyyah, Vohora, Meman, Momna or Momin, Khoja, Garasia, Khatki, Sipahi, Baluch, Behlim, Kureshi, Mirasi, Khokhar, Jat, Nagori, Ghasoora, Ghori, Bhatti, Sumra, Ranma, Nayak, Salat, Jamad, etc.

The Saiyad can be said to form the highest communal group in the Muslim society. They claim to be descendants from the Prophet through his daughter Fatimah and her husband the Prophet's cousin, Ali.

Scores of the Saiyad families entered Gujarat during the reigns of the Sultans of Gujarat (1400-1570) and their successors, the Mughal (1570-1750). The Mirat-i-Ahmadi lists the following important families : (1) The Shirazis, (2) The Bukharis, (3) The Rafais, (4) The Qadiriyyas, (5) The Meshhedis, (6) The Idrusis, (7) The Tirmizis, (8) The Bhaktaris, (9) The Urezis, (10) The Zaidis, and (11) The Mahdavis.

A branch of Saiyads tracing their origin from Nizari Pirs and having within their ranks the important Imam Shah entered Gujarat as Ismaili missionaries. At present the Saiyads can hardly be regarded as an affluent section of the Muslim community. There are a number of immigrants who claim to be the Saiyads but they are not so recognised by 'true' Saiyads. The 'true' Saiyads are highly sensitive to marriage connections and those customs which bespeak or even suggest a Saiyad origin. The fluency in Urdu, unmixed with Gujarati and well-versed in Persian are some traits of genuine Saiyads. They are mainly found in Vav, Palanpur, Radhanpur, Kankrej and Deesa talukas of this district. Marriage among the Saiyads is arranged as far as



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possible within the immediate kin group. They have absorbed some of the mores of the higher Hindu castes. Among them, widows do not remarry, child marriages used to be frequent and dowries are also high compared to other Muslim communities. In religion they are both Sunnis and Shiah.

The Shaikh is one of the four castes into which the Muslims are divided. The word Shaikh literally means 'elder'. It is applied to the descendants of local converts as well as to foreigners. They are mainly found in Vav, Tharad, Santalpur, Deodar, Radhanpur and Kankrej talukas of this district. They do not have inter-marriage relations with other Muslim communities but only accept daughters of Pathan. All of them are Sunni by sect. They are religious minded and like Hindus keep *badha*, *manta*, etc., during sickness.

The Pathans came and settled in Gujarat during the times of the Sultans of Delhi. They belong to one of the four classes into which foreign Muslims are divided. They are of Afghan origin. In this district Pathans came in large number with the ruling families of Palanpur and Radhanpur who were Lohani Pathans and Babis. Most of them came from Jhalore. The name probably means people of the uplands. The word is derived from the Arabic word meaning 'Victorious'. It is now generally agreed that the name Pathan is Indian form of the name 'Pushtun' derived from an Old Iranian word Parashti (hills). They earn their livelihood through service and miscellaneous occupations and cultivation. They are mainly found in Tharad, Santalpur, Radhanpur, Kankrej and Danta talukas of this district. In matter of social customs like birth, marriage and death they observe Muslim customs. All of them are Sunnis by religion.

The Mughals are one of the four foreign Muslim communities. They came to Gujarat during the reign of Humayun and Akbar. Government service is the first preference of the Mughals followed by private service and trade.

Memon—The Memon is a corruption of *muamin* (believer), a name given to the descendants of Muslims converts from the Hindu castes of Luhanas and Kachhias. The conversion first took place in the middle of the 15th century in Sindh in response to the preaching by Saiyad Eusuf-ud-Din Kadri, a descendant of saint of Bagdad. At that time, Manekji, the head of the eighty-four *nukas* of the Luhana community, was in favour at Nagarthatha in the court of a Samma



ruler named Markat Khan. Markat Khan became a follower of the Saiyad and Manekji, his two sons and 700 other Luhanas followed their ruler's example. On conversion, the saint changed the name of the community to Muamin or believers. Before leaving Sindh, he blessed his people, a blessing to which the Memons trade their fruitfulness and success in trade. From Sindh they spread all over India and also in Burma, Siam, Singapur, Java and East Africa.

The Tharadari Memons are found scattered in villages and are petty shop-keepers and money-lenders. They belong to merchant class. All memons have a colloquial knowledge of Urdu. They are Sunnis of the Hanafi School. As a class they are religious. The Memons are very keen and careful to the pilgrimage to Mecca. They proudly prefix Haji (one who has gone to the pilgrimage). They believe in astrology and consult astrologers, a practice condemned by the Prophet.

Momin—The Momins from believers are descendants of Hindus of many castes, converted to the Shiah form of the faith by different members of the Ismailiya Saiyads of whom Imam shah of Pirana was the most distinguished. The legend ascribes their conversion to Islam to Pir Kabir-ud-din. His numerous descendants have been accepted as Pirs by the Momins. In this district generally the Momins are converted from the Hindu Patel community. The Momins are divided into a number of divisions such as Imam Shahi Momins, Mashaikhi Momins and by a few other appellations. One of the important groups of these Momins is that of the Mashaikhi Momins, the followers of eighteenth century Ismaili preacher, the descendant of Pir Kabir-ud-din's brother. One group of the Momins are followers of Pirs and greater number follow the lineal descendants of Pir Mashaikhi. Another larger group is that of Sunnis. They have well-known religious Madrasah at Chhapi. Due to reformist movement, Momins who were generally the followers of Pir Mashaikhi, the greater number of them went over to Sunnism. The School at Chhapi is the centre of their reformist movement. There are some Momins who accept Agakhan and the Nizari Ismailia Shiah faith. They are known as Agakhanis. The Pir followers call themselves Shiah Jafari to distinguish themselves from Shiah Ismaili and Shiah Ishna Ashari. The name is after Jafar-al-Sadiq the six Shiah Imam and the Pir who preferred this nomenclature calls himself a Jafari. These Momins are found in Deesa, Palanpur and Danta talukas of this district. They are generally agriculturists and weavers.



Since the time of 39th generation of sixth Imam, the Momins of Kanodar (Palanpur talukas) are divided into two divisions, viz., the Pir Party, who are the followers of Abutalib and the Imami Party, who are the followers of Hussain Ibn Ali.

The Momins of Kanodar are generally the followers of Abutalib. They have their Dargah at Cambay (Kheda district). Abutalib had no son, so his followers worship the Balesha Dargah situated opposite to Nareshwar tank. They collect rupees two and twenty-five paise per family to celebrate the religious festivals and to manage the tomb or Dargah of Cambay (Kheda district). They celebrate the Oras of their Pirs. They read religious books on all religious occasions, good or bad. The knowledgeable person of their group reads such religious book and thereafter distribute the *niyaz* (*prasad*) among the followers.

The Momin followers of Hussain Ibn Ali believe in twelve Imams, viz., two for Isne and ten for Ashariya. They believe the Hazarat Ali as their first Khalifa or Imam, who married with Bibi Fatma, the daughter of Hazarat Mohammad Paigamber. They celebrate the Oras of their Imam. They have built Hussain Tekri place where they held (Federation) fair every year and organise religious discourses. They believe in the Maulvi for their religious ceremonies on occasions, good or bad. They read Majlis through Waiz and after that distribute the *prasad* called *niyaz*. They are all Jafari Shiahs (Isnes Ashariya).

The Momins of Meta (Vadgam taluka) and Manpura (Palanpur taluka) villages and some Momins of Deesa, Vav and Santalpur talukas are followers of Agakhan. In some villages of Vadgam and Palanpur talukas of the Banaskantha district, such as, Meta, Basu, Changa, Changwada, Mahi, Firozpura, Chapi, Majda, Bhagal, Bahadarpur, Gathaman, Kamalpur, etc., the Momins are followers of Vahabi sect and their main occupation is dairy-farming, hotel keeping. They are also taxi-drivers. They follow Muslim Law scrupulously and set apart Zakat every year for giving as alms. They abide by their words and do not accept interest on the money deposited in banks, etc. Some of them are illiterate and generally they are averse to female education.

All these Momins are known as the Murid. Though they have their different Masjids, they do not differ from each other in style of



Namaz. Most of the Momins of Kanodar believe in Taziah but not in the way as others believe. They take in procession zariz (Taziah in miniature) and Alams to Hussain Tekri.

The Momins males generally put on *dhoti*, *jabhho*, and *topi*. Some of them also put on *ijar*. Their females put on *chaniyo*, *polku* and *sari*.

Generally marriages are fixed in their own group and in the same village. The *kazi* of their own party officiates their marriage ceremony. He is given some remuneration for the service. The bride party serves food to the eleven persons of bridegroom's party with the father of the bride, while the five persons are served food with the bridegroom. In their marriage Nikakhani is performed. At the time of Nika the bridegroom has to take an oath for providing a house, clothes, food, wood for fuel, etc., to the bride. Moreover, the bridegroom has to give Rs. 41 as a Meher to the bride. At the time of marriage the bride's father gives first *anu*. After marriage the bride comes to the bridegroom's house. At the time of first pregnancy the bride goes to her father's house at the seventh month after performing lap-filling ceremony. Among them forty days after the birth of child is treated as the period of seclusion. During this period separate accommodation for her is kept so that no one can touch her, and she is also prohibited to touch anything in the house. After the period of forty days they perform some religious ceremony and then she is considered to be pure. Thereafter she is allowed to do the household work. At the sixth day of the birth of child, the naming ceremony takes place. The paternal aunt (*phoi*) or the elder sister of the child gives name to the child. When the child completes three, five, seven, nine or odd months of age, she goes to her father-in-laws house with clothes, some ornaments, brass-vessels in *jiyara anu* or *motu anu*. Thereafter when the child completes four years, four months and four days he has to read Bismillah and Sura of the Quran.

At the time of death the neighbours and relatives gather to gather. The dead is put on *kafan* after completing bath where a male bathes male and a female bathes female. After that the Maiyat is prepared and taken to the Kabrastan where the Namaz or Janaja is performed. Soon after burial ceremony when corpse is buried, tomb or Kabar is constructed. On the third day after death the relatives gather for *Ziyarat* ceremony in which the males go to the grave-yard or Kabrastan



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while the females gather at home. When the male members return from the Kabrastan, all disperse after reciting the *Fatiha*. The period of mourning is of forty days, during this period relatives gather at the dead's place to recite *Fatiha* and also read religious books. Thereafter on the fourteenth day of *Shaaban* known as *Shab-e-Barat* the relatives of the dead go to the Kabrastan or grave-yard and recite *Fatiha*.

They keep *roza* for thirty days in the Ramzan month and perform five times *namaz* in a day. In matter of the celebration of the religious festivals they do not differ much from the rest of Muslims and celebrate the Ramzan Id, Baqri Id, Muharram, etc.

Vohora—Vohora is a general term derived from the Gujarati word *vohorvun* to trade and is applied to converts to Islam from the Hindu castes belonging to the unmartial classes. Vohoras are divided into two main classes, Vohora traders and Vohora peasants. Both are quite distinct from each other in manners, customs and religious beliefs.

Vohora-traders are converts, who came and settled in Gujarat in the 11th century. Even now, they have such surnames as Dave and Travadi, pointing to their Brahman or Vania origin, but a few Vohoras claim descent from Egyptian and Arab refugees. They are the richest and most prosperous class of Musalmans in the district.

The Vohoras are divided in three sub-classes, viz., the Daudi, the Suleimani and the Aliya Vohoras. In this district the Daudi and Sunni Vohoras are mainly found. There is one fundamental distinction between the three which arose on the death of the 26th Dai, Dawood Bin Adjab Shah, in 1591 A.D., corresponding Hijri year 969. The Vohoras who accepted Dawood Bin Qutubsha, as the 27th Dai, are called the Daudi Vohoras, and those who supported Suleiman Bin Hasan as their 27th Dai are called Suleimani Vohoras. The Aliya Vohoras are separated after the 28th Dai, Shaikh Adam Safiuddin. They accepted Ali Bin Ibrahim as their 29th Dai, after the death of 28th Dai, mentioned above and they are called Aliya Vohoras. Their present Dai resides at Vadodara. The Vohoras in India accepted Daudis as against the majority of Yemenities who supported Suleiman Bin Hasan, after whom they are known as Suleimanis. Among them there are several doctors, lawyers, engineers and chartered accountants. They are also forest contractors and commission



agents. They mainly deal in hardware, foodgrains, timber and *timru* leaves. As a class, they are well-to-do. In matter of social customs like birth, they follow some of the Hindu customs. Among them, a child's naming ceremony takes place on the sixth day. An aunt brings a *thali* with a *Diya* (lamp), lit with pure *ghee*, a white dress sprinkled with saffron water and quill with which the destiny of the child is believed to be written. On the seventh day or the fourteenth day or the twenty-first day from the date of birth of the child, is the *aqeeqa* when the baby's head is shaved and a goat is sacrificed. The circumcision ceremony for boys is celebrated by taking him out on horse-back in a colourfull procession. This rite can be performed at any time during childhood or soon after birth. *Mishaq* is celebrated when a Vohora's child reaches puberty. He or she takes an oath of allegiance to His Holiness, Mullaji Saheb, promising to pray three times a day, to follow the code of conduct laid down by him and never to associate with those who are against him. In the marriage ceremony, there are certain vestiges of the Hindu system such as practising of endogamy. At the time of wedding reception, the bridegroom breaks a coconut. The bride has to wear a *sari* like a Hindu bride. The marriage is strictly restricted to its own caste, i. e., Daudi Vohoras only.

According to Vohoras, the marriage is a contract between the bridegroom and the bride's father or guardian. The bride and groom have to first get a certificate from the local Aamil stating that they have paid all their dues to the community. The marriage date is then fixed. The marriages are also performed among them. The Meher or dower is fixed. For marriage, *nikah* (wedding ceremony) is performed either by His Holiness Mullaji Saheb (chief priest) or his representative, the Aamil. A bride enters her new home led by her uncle, who shows the way with a *Diya*. Modern Vohoras use battery operated torches or lamps. A *Dupatta* is draped and tied around the bride and groom symbolising their eternal union. This ritual is also adopted from the Hindus. At the door, the mother-in-law waves a brass *lota* full of water round the heads of the bridal couple to ward off evil. The bride reverently touches the lady's hand and knee to her eyes, forehead and lips.

At the time of all ceremonial occasions, they eat out of large common *thals*. The *sitabi* is a special meal served in gratitude to prophet Mohammed's daughter Bibi Fatama, when a *minnat* (wish) is fulfilled. Eleven or fourteen women pray together and eat from



the *sitabi thal*. After the death, the body is bathed and taken to a mosque for the *namaz-e-janaza* (funeral prayer). The relatives and friends take turns at lifting the pier. The body is interred along with a *rukkuchitthi* (note of blessings) obtained from the head Aamil. In ritual matters, the Vohoras show a little difference from standard Muslim practice. They offer prayers three times a day instead of five, by combining the two, afternoon and evening prayers. They have no *khutba* (sermon) on Friday because Imam is absent, *i.e.*, in seclusion. They use the astronomical lunar calendar called the Misri calendar to determine the beginning of each month. The Vohoras believe in esoteric interpretation of the Quran behind the manifest meaning. Salvation for them is obtainable only through the intercession of a hierarchy which reaches down from Allah to Prophet Mohammed, to Hazarat Ali to the Imams, to the Hujjats (All in seclusion with the Imam) to the Dai-ul-Mutlaq. The Dai-ul-Mutlaq exercises all powers for and on behalf of the Imam, who is in seclusion. Next to the Dai (called Syedna or Mullaji), are the Mazoon (usually his heir apparent), the Mukasir, the Shaikhs and the Mullas. Aamils or representatives of the Syedna in various cities are chosen from the ranks of the Shaikhs and officiate at ceremonies and collect taxes.

Sunni Vohoras are converted Hindus. Formerly, they were Shiah Vohoras. They became Sunnis by the efforts of religious leaders (Mulla) who came here during the rule of Sultan Muzafarshah I of Gujarat as reported in the book "Preaching of Islam" by Sir Tomas Arnold. Thereafter they formed a separate community known as the Sunni Vohoras. They are mainly found in Vav, Radhanpur, Danta, Kankrej and Palanpur talukas of this district. They are now engaged in business or employed in Government or semi-Government services. Some of them are lawyers, doctors and engineers also.

The Sunni Vohoras have no particular religious head. Most of them have no *pir* and as such they have no compact communal organisation like Shiah Vohoras, Memons and Khojas.

They are fairly educated compared to other Muslims though they cannot match with Hindus in this respect.

Garasia—The Rajput origin of the Garasias is indicated by their names which are still mostly Hindus. They are generally poor except rich cultivators among them. They resemble the Maleks in their poverty and backwardness. In villages they are agriculturists and in towns, mill



workers and labourers. Less than a quarter of them were found to be literate.

Khokhar—The Khokhars are converted Rajputs of the Khokhar tribe. They are found in the Radhanpur and Deesa talukas of this district. They are mainly engaged in agriculture. In towns, they are labourers also. As far as possible they intermarry among themselves but do not object to matrimonial connections with the Babis, Lohanis and other Pathans. Education among them is low.

Sumra—Sumra, a Sindh tribe of Rajput origin, were partly converted by Mahmud Begda in A.D. 1473 (A.H. 876) Sir Henry Elliot calls the Sumras a lunar race unquestionably of the Parmar stock and necessarily, Agnikulas, that is belonging to the Mihira Gurjjara or white Huna hordes of the late fifth or early sixth century. They are like Maleks and Behlins, an agrarian community and education among them is good. They are mainly found in Radhanpur taluka of this district.

Khatki—The Khatkis was found in good number in Banaskantha district. Here they are called Vepari. Traditionally they are butchers and also found engaged in labour and private service. They are found in Radhanpur taluka of this district.

They are poor and backward. They go round villages buying skins, and after tanning them sell to wholesale merchants. Their women help in the work of tanning.

Sipahis—Sipahis are mainly found in Radhanpur taluka of this district. They are an agricultural community. In matter of social customs they do not differ much from the rest of Muslims. They are generally poor and low in education.

Baluch—Baluch are mainly found in Radhanpur and Kankrej talukas of this district. There is a large Baluch agrarian population. In places other than their name, they are labourers and follow little-paid callings. They are generally poor and low in education.

Behlim—Behlim is an agrarian community like Maleks and Garasias. They are mainly found in Radhanpur taluka of this district. Some of them are petty traders and butchers. They are generally poor and backward in education.



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Kureshi—Kureshi is an *eponym* from Quresh, the class to which the Prophet belonged. They are mainly found in Radhanpur taluka of this district. The occupations followed are mainly petty trade and service and in most cases, that of butchers.

Mir or Mirasi—Mir or Mirasis are also known as Dhadhi. Mirasis are traditionally dancers and singers. Many of them still follow the calling of begging and singing and others have taken to petty service, labour and other little-paid callings. They are mainly found in Palanpur, Vadgam, Deesa, Kankrej, Radhanpur and Vav talukas of this district. They are generally poor and backward in education.

Jat—They originally belonged to the Punjab. They are agricultural labourers and are generally poor and low in education. Many of them are employed as village watchmen. They are mainly found in Santalpur, Deesa, Palanpur, Dhanera and Danta talukas of this district.

Nagori—Nagori, a migrant community from Rajasthan, as the name implies, settled mainly in Radhanpur talukas of this district. Its main occupation both in villages and towns is agriculture and cattle breeding. Among them education is low.

Ghasooras—The Ghasooras are mainly found in Deesa taluka of this district. Being a rural community they are mainly engaged in agriculture and agricultural labour with a very low education.

Rauma—The Rauma is a localized labour community engaged in agriculture. They are found in Radhanpur and Santalpur taluka of this district. It is a poor community with a very low education.

Silat/Salat—Due to the long rule of Muslims in this district, some Salats of the Hindu community were converted and we find Muslim Chunara and Salats working as masons in Palanpur, and other parts of the district. Their educational standard is low.

Jamad—The Jamad is an agricultural and labouring community localized in the Vadgam taluka of this district. Their educational standard is low.



Among potters there is a Muslim communities of Musalas. They say that originally they were Sumara Hindus of Sindh but afterwards they got converted into Muslims and they migrated to this district.

Mehdavis—The Mehdavis of north Gujarat are a peculiar race and differ from their co-religionists in many points. The Palanpur Mehdavis are not converted Hindus but claim descent from Mir Khondmir and Saiyad Muhammad the followers of the Mehdi. They say that after the death of their Mehdi (A. D. 1504) at Farah, these two followers returned to India and after many wanderings over India settled some in north Gujarat and some in Hyderabad (South India). The Palanpur branch made the ruling Lohani dynasty of that State their followers. There, they established their *dairah* literally enclosure or settlement. The Palanpur Mehdavis call themselves Saiyads and Pirzadahs. In Palanpur the Saiyad Pirzadahs claim the whole of the moveable property of their followers of rank after their death. They also make it a rule for their followers living in the villages round about Palanpur to bring their dead in the first instance to the house of Saiyad, from where after the performance of some secret rites, the corpse is taken and buried. Though free to profess their opinions, the Mehdavis still practice caution *takiyah*, and are anxious to be orthodox Muslims. Both men and women dress like north Gujarat Muslim. They are peasants and their women help them in the fields. They are clean, honest hardworking, quiet and thrifty. They hold that their Muhammad, was the last Imam, the expected Mehdi. They neither repent for their sins nor pray for the souls of the dead. They are said to bury the dead with the face down. They marry only among themselves. They have no headman but form circles *dairahas*, governed by rules of their own. Property in default of heirs belongs to their Saiyads who are descendants of Hussain.

Sindhi—The Sindhis locally called Sandhis are said to have come from Sind. They are bold, reckless and daring people. They are mainly agriculturists, cattle-breeders and are employed in Government services. They are found in Radhanpur and Deesa talukas of this district.

Fakir—The Fakirs of this district generally lead a roving life. They move from house to house gathering money, grain and cooked food. In this district they are divided into two groups, viz., the *teliya* Fakir and the *Shamdar* Fakir. They are mainly found in Radhanpur taluka of this district.



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Inter Caste Relations—As in other parts of the country, inter-castes relations were very rigid a generation ago. The members of different castes and sub-castes lived in close watertight compartments in such matters as inter-dining and inter-castes marriages. The picture has greatly changed especially after Independence and the changes that have occurred in recent times are noteworthy. Inter-dining is no longer looked upon with disapproval by a Hindu anywhere in the district particularly in towns, though this restriction still persists in a diluted form in rural area. Inter-caste marriages, though not very common, are more frequent than ever before and many of the traditional restrictions on marriage based on caste are gradually disappearing as a result of the spread of education, influence of western culture, equality of sexes and consequent removal of disabilities from which women suffered in the past.

SOCIAL LIFE

Manners and Customs

Hindu—Important customs observed by the Hindus are those relating to *Simanta* (pregnancy), *upanayana* (thread- ceremony) *vivaha* (marriage) and death.

Birth-Simanta which corresponds to the Vedic *Samskara* of *simantonayana* is popularly known as *agharani* or *kholobharvo* (lap-filling) and is performed at the husband's house to celebrate the woman's first pregnancy. This ceremony is not as elaborately observed these days as in the past. After the *simanta* ceremony, the expectant woman generally goes to her parent's house for her first confinement. On the birth of a child, the midwife cuts its- naval-cord and buries it in a corner of the compound in front of the house. On the night of the sixth day after birth, the *chhatthi puja* is performed, when *vidhata* or the goddess of Destiny writes the child's future. Generally on the twelfth, but sometimes on some other suitable day, the naming ceremony of the child takes place. The *foi* or the sister of the husband performs the naming ceremony. Names are kept according to signs of the zodiac for which a Brahman is consulted. On some auspicious day, usually in the third month or after a month and a quarter of the birth, the woman returns to her husband's house along with the child with clothes, ornaments and a cradle presented to her by her parents.



The Upanayana or Janoi—The *upanayana* or *Janoi* (sacred thread-ceremony) as it is called in Gujarati is Vedic *samskara* involving various acts, one of which is investing the *batuk* (boy) with a *yajnopavita* or *Janoi* (sacred thread). For the Dwijas, (twice-born) the thread-ceremony is an essential *samskara* (purificatory rite) which formally initiates one to *brahmacharyashrama* or the stage of student-hood. Besides the Brahmans, the Lohanas and some Kshatriyas also consider themselves by tradition entitled to the performance of these rites as they are included among Dwij.

Marriage and Morals—The Hindu *shastras* consider marriage as *samskara* or a sacrament which calls for the performance of elaborate rites and ceremonies prescribed in the *Gruhyasutras*, to enable a person to enter *grahasthashrama* or the householder's stage.

Marriage Ceremonies—When betrothal takes place, the proposal usually comes from the girl's side, when social prestige, economic condition and education are mainly taken into consideration. In Patidars and Rajputs the father of the girl presents *kandora*, brass vessels, *dhoti* and *saree* at this time. In Bhoi sweets, coconut, *kandora* and Re. 1 are presented by the father of the girl. Sugar or *gur* is distributed among relatives and neighbours. A match is usually decided by the parents and the boy or the girl has hardly any say in it. But in Patidars, they are allowed to see each other and their formal consent is taken. The marriage ceremonies are elaborate. Two to three days before the day of the wedding, the *mandap muhurta* (erection of the marriage pandal) and the worship of Ganpati and Gotraj (family deity) take place at both the houses. On the day of marriage or on the day previous, bride's maternal uncle and his wife bring presents (*mosalu*) for the bride and her mother, consisting of *panetar*, her wedding saree, and ornaments especially ivory *chudo* to be worn at the time of the wedding. Similarly, the bridegroom also receives presents from his maternal uncle.

The marriage usually takes place at the bride's place. The *jan* (*barat*) or the bridegroom party starts in procession with a musical band or drummers and pipers in front with the bridegroom and women singing in the rear. If the bride belongs to another place, the further journey to the bride's village or town is completed



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by any convenient mode of transport such as bus, motor or railway. On their arrival at the destination a warm welcome or *samaiya* ceremony takes place to receive the *jan* party by the parents of the bride accompanied by their male relations. The party is then carried in procession to the place known as *utara*, specially reserved for their halt. Before the wedding procession starts, women of the bride's party go to the *utara* with *kalvo* consisting of *kansar* (sweet wheat preparation).

The wedding procession is usually a very grand affair. The bridegroom, who is called *Var raja* receives all the attention as if he were a king for the time being. He rides a horse richly caparisoned or sits in a horse carriage or motor-car. Bridegroom is welcomed at the entrance by *ponkhvun* ceremony. When the procession reaches the bride's place, the bride's mother waves four times a miniature plough, a grinding pestle and a churning stick, over the head of the bridegroom and places at the bridegroom's feet a *samput* made of two earthen cups or *kodia* painted white and tied together with a red string so that their edges touch each other. The bridegroom treads on the *samput*, breaks it to pieces, then enters the marriage booth, takes his seat in the *mahyaru*, or booth specially decorated for the occasion.

The marriage rites and ceremonies to be performed at the *vivaha* or wedding are generally the same among all the Hindus, though they may vary in some minor details according to different castes and regions. Generally a Brahman priest officiates at the marriage ceremony. The rites commonly in vogue are in order *kanyadana*, *vivaha homa*, *panigrahana*, *lajjahoma* and *saptapadi*. These are interspersed by a number of minor ceremonies such as feet-washing, honey-sipping, rice-throwing, present making, oath-taking, etc., Brahmans and Nagars perform the *charubhaksana* or *charubhaksa* ceremony (mutual eating of cooked rice), when the couple sit in the booth called *chori* and the priest lighting the sacred fire performs a sacrifice (*havan*). The couple then feed each other with *kansar*. The bridegrooms' people are then presented with cash and clothes by the bride's father. These presents are customary even among castes which do not perform *charubhaksana* ceremony. The communities which practise dowry had to pay to the bridegroom a very heavy price by way of *paheramni* (dowry.) The *jan* or marriage party departs the next morning after performing *Ganesh puja*. In Rajput, on the day of marriage the father of the



bridegroom gives dowry which consists of some amount in cash and ornaments, whereas the father of the girl gives *kesar*, *bedu*, *trambakundi* and *thal*. In Vania, the *palla* of some amount is given to the bride at the time of marriage.

In former times, when child marriage was prevalent, the bride did not accompany the bridegroom when the party returned home. Some near relatives of the bridegroom stayed behind to bring her later on any convenient day. The marriage ceremony at the bride's place ends with *kanya viday*, a farewell ceremony, both pleasant and pathetic, when the girl leaves her parents' roof to become for ever a member of the groom's family. When they reach home, the bridal couple is received ceremonially at the groom's house. They then together offer worship to the *matrukas gotraj* Rannadevi or any other nuptial deities installed in the household at the commencement of the marriage ceremony. The bride and bridegroom then untie the *mindhal* (*randia-dumetorum*) from each other's wrist, feed each other with *kansar* and play with *kodis* (shell-money). With a *vadhamana* or thanks giving at the temple of the village deity, the marriage ceremony ends.

The Hindu *shastras* ordain that a person should not marry in his own *gotraj* and within six degrees of relationship on the father's side and four or five on the mother's side. Usually, the *gotraj* of the father alone and not that of the mother is considered when a marriage alliance is contemplated. Even this restriction has been showing signs of relaxation in recent times.

Moreover, a Hindu is supposed to marry within the same caste or sub-caste as a general rule. Any marriage outside is considered contrary to the caste custom. These restrictions are gradually loosening and marriages outside the caste and sub-caste are on the increase particularly among the advanced and educated classes and also among the economically better off classes.

The Hindu scriptures enjoin that the bride be given as a gift to a suitable bridegroom. This is called *kanyadana*. In course of time, it came to be associated with the giving of a dowry which causes acute hardship to the poor. In response to a strong agitation against the continuance of this social evil, an Act abolishing the giving or taking of dowry at the time of marriage was passed by the Indian Parliament in 1960, and any contravention of this law is made penal.



Recent Trends—With the spread of education, social legislation and high cost of living, the social outlook of the people on marriage has considerably changed in recent times. A number of undesirable social customs which were strictly observed in the past have lost their significance under the changed circumstances. The practice of child marriages, which was common in former times, has almost disappeared and the age of marriage has substantially advanced both in case of males and females. In the case of males, the age has gone normally beyond 20 years and in the case of females beyond 16. Child marriage has been declared unlawful by the Central legislation (the Sarda Act of 1927). Most of the restrictions which were accepted as a matter of course and scrupulously observed in the past, are being relaxed to suit the modern trends of thought and ways of living. Civil marriages, which were unknown in the past, are now-a-days on the increase. Inter-caste marriages have also started taking place among the younger generations especially in the urban areas. Bigamy is prohibited by law and made penal. Widowhood is considered a curse, but restrictions on re-marriage in certain castes continue. Divorce is now permitted under the law, but its extent among the higher castes is comparatively less and resorted to only under special circumstances in the district. In case where divorce is obtained by having recourse to a court of law under the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955, it is easier for the divorced male to remarry than the divorced female. Remarriages are, however, common among the lower castes where the custom known as *natra* is prevalent. Widow re-marriage in the form of *diyarvatu* that is to say levirate is permitted and practised among some of the lower castes.

To sum up, under the pressure of social and economic development and spread of education, cases of civil marriage have recently increased. Time taken by the marriage ceremonies is being curtailed, the accent being on spending more time and money on reception and ostentation. Secondly, the widow re-marriages, are on the increase among the middle and higher classes, as a result of the permissive divorce law, change in the attitude towards marriage and economic independence and due to spread of education. The custom of levirate still continues among some castes. Thirdly, the present day youth, though not averse to accepting dowry in marriage, does not insist on the pound of flesh from his in-laws. Fourthly, as regards expenditure, the castes and classes, which have become rich under the Five Year Plans after independence, indulge, in conspicuous consumption, whereas those particularly the middle class people, restrict expenditure on marriages as far as possible. Lastly



the marriage bonds are loosened not only by the permissive divorce law but by the girls gaining economic independence as a result of spread of education and gainful employment. By and large, the attitude towards marriage is undergoing rapid transformation in the permissive society and a tendency is developing to treat it more as a contract rather than a sacrament.

The following statement gives details about never married, married, widowed and divorced persons in the district according to Census, 1961 :

STATEMENT III.12

Marital Status

Marital Status 1.	Total		Rural		Urban	
	Males 2.	Females 3.	Males 4.	Females 5.	Males 6.	Females 7.
Total population ..	511,951	484,193	475,230	450,260	36,721	33,933
Never Married* ..	282,367	220,123	261,904	204,887	20,463	15,236
Married ..	212,855	217,717	197,768	203,248	15,087	14,469
Widowed ..	15,795	45,868	14,672	41,714	1,123	4,154
Divorced or Separated	934	484	886	410	48	74
Status unspecified ..	..	1	..	1	..	..

* The figures include persons (1) who have not reached to age of marriage and (2) who, though attained the age of marriage, have not married for various reasons.

Source : District Census Handbook, 1961, Banaskantha, p. 100.

Death Ceremonies—The Hindus consider it necessary to perform certain after-death ceremonies to propitiate the dead. When a person is breathing his last, a silver coin and holy water of Ganga are put into his mouth. Religious books are read near the dying person. The relatives and neighbours assemble and pier of bamboo is prepared and the dead body is taken to the cremation ground. Females do not go to the cremation ground but follow the funeral procession up to the corner of the street weeping and beating the breast and return home after taking bath near a well or a pond. Males wait at the cremation ground till the dead body is completely burnt. Ashes or *phul* are collected on the same or the third day. Memorial rites or *shraddha* are performed from the tenth and continued till the thirteenth day after death. On the twelfth day is performed what is called *sapindikarana* whereby the dead severs all earthly connections and joins the *pitru* (manes). On the thirteenth day of the *shraddha*, various



utility articles in daily use are gifted to the family priest or to the daughter so that the deceased may enjoy them in another world. During the first year, *masio* or *masiso* (monthly), *chhamasi* (half yearly) and *varsi* (yearly) *shraddhas* are also performed.

*Manners and Customs—Muslim—*The Chief Muslim rites and ceremonies relating to pregnancy and birth, initiation, and marriage as followed by Muslims in general and Sunnis in particular are described below.

*Birth—*The first pregnancy ceremony is performed in the seventh or ninth month at the husband's house while the first delivery is usually performed at her parental home. The expectant woman goes to her father's house. On the seventh, fourteenth or twenty-first day after child birth, the Muslim rite of *akika* sacrifice is performed in two parts, namely, the shaving of child's head and the killing of one or two goats. The ceremony of *botan* (feeding) is performed when the child is four and half months old.

When the child completes four years, four months and four days, the Bismillah ceremony which consists of taking the name of god, is performed. The child is made to repeat, after the priest, the opening chapter of the Quran and the relatives are given a feast to commemorate the occasion. The *khatna* (circumcision) ceremony is performed when the boy becomes six or seven years old. There is rejoicing when a boy or girl observes the first Ramzan fast.

*Marriage (Nikah)—*Child marriages are not prevalent. The usual age at which marriage takes place is between 20-22 years for boys and between 15-18 years for girls. Generally the proposal comes from the girls' side and when betrothal is decided the girl's father comes to the boy's place and gives some fixed amount in cash to the boy in token of engagement. In general, a Muslim marriage lasts for two or three days. On the day of marriage, the bridegroom's relatives go to the bride's house in a procession called *bari* or *sachak* carrying in trays gifts of sweetmeats, dried fruits, ornaments and articles of dress for the bride. The party comes back with their trays refilled with clothes for the bridegroom. Sometime during the early hours of the night, the groom puts on the wedding clothes and with *sehra* (flower sheet) fastened



round his forehead mounts on a horse, and starts in a procession accompanied by friends and relatives with a fanfare of musical band in front. At the bride's house, the bridegroom is led to his seat. Then the Kazi asks the bride's agent whether she accepts so and so as her husband in consideration of *meher* (dower) as decided. If he nods assent he takes the declaration of two other witnesses. He then puts the same question to the bridegroom. The *meher* or bride price varies from Rs. 200 to 500. The amount of *meher* is recorded in a document known as *doriya*. This agreed amount is not paid in cash but is payable on demand only. Similarly there is a custom of *dahej* or *dejdan* where in different kinds of vessels, cots, mattresses, etc., are given to the bride by her parents. The Kazi records these proceedings and showers his blessings on the married couple. The *nikah* or wedding ceremony is followed by an entertainment programme after which the bridegroom returns home with the bride.

Marriages, between cousins, both parallel and cross, are not prohibited among the Muslim's, preference being given to the first cousin. However, sister's daughter is under incest taboo. A Muslim cannot marry his foster-mother or foster sister, unless the foster-brother and sister were nursed by the same woman at intervals widely separated. The Quran permits polygamy which allows four wives. But due to economic pressure it is rare. A man may not marry his wife's sister during his wife's lifetime unless she has been divorced. Widow re-marriage is in vogue but is avoided by many as a mark of social superiority. A widow can marry her deceased husband's brother or relative and a widower can marry his deceased wife's sister or relatives. *Talaq* (divorce) as recognised by Mohammedan law at the option of the husband, but among higher classes is resorted to only as a last resort, when all attempts at rapprochement fail.

Death Ceremonies—To a person about to die, the *Sura-e-yasin* from the Quran is read out in an undertone. The creed and prayer for forgiveness are recited so that the dying person may also repeat the same and a few drops of honey or sugared water are put into his mouth. After he breathes his last, the dead body is bathed and placed in *Janaja* or *coffin*. Flowers are placed on it. A *kafan* (shroud) consisting of three white pieces of cloth to which two more pieces, namely, *simaband* and *odhani* are added in the case of a female is put on the dead body. Then the pier is lifted on the shoulders of relatives and other Muslims and borne away to the graveyard,



where the last prayers are offered. Till the third day, no food is cooked in the house of mourners. But friends or relatives of the deceased send cooked meals or cook them at their expense at the house of mourners. On the third day after death, *jiyarat* ceremony is performed wherein relatives are feasted. On the 40th day *ghadi* ceremony is performed, when the relatives and friends are feasted. On this day relatives visit the *kabrastan* and offer *dhup* or *agarbatti* and put flowers on the tomb. Thereafter they visit the tomb only on religious occasions. The only form of mourning laid down by the Mohmmadan law is the strict seclusion of the widow in the case of the death of the head of family. Unless forced to do so, she never leaves the house for four months and ten days. Besides this some of the customs prevalent among the Hindus are also practised. The widow breaks her bangles and never again wears them. She does not put on a nose-ring. If she is young, she wears dark coloured dress; if old a white one.

Social Evils and Crimes

The people of the district in general are law abiding and peace loving and are free from social evils as drinking, gambling, prostitution, etc. The tribals and Thakarda Kolis and some other backward class people are habituated to drinking during festivals and marriage ceremonies. Eating of opium is still prevalent among Anjanas and Rajputs on social occasions. The evil of gambling exists to a certain extent. The following statement gives details of the nature of crimes committed and number of persons connected with these crimes.

STATEMENT III.13
Offences Registered in the District

Sl. No.	Offence	Year										
		1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1.	Crimes against State	19	13	20	26	19	31	25	36	50	45	
2.	Crimes against Property	881	727	992	1,018	925	925	908	852	969	1,135	
3.	Crimes against Person	332	377	422	377	441	437	476	424	472	585	
4.	Crimes connected with the Prohibition	1,127	1,081	1,260	1,109	1,250	773	1,526	1,326	1,202	1,329	
5.	Miscellaneous crimes not specified above	4	10	10	15	3	21	14	23	29	52	

Source : The District Superintendent of Police, Palanpur, Banaskantha District.



According to the statement there were 19 cases of crimes recorded against State in 1964, which increased upto 45 in 1973. The cases of crimes against property have increased from 881 in 1964 to 1,135 in 1973 as the district is inhabited by the tribal people and other backward classes. A considerable part of the district is frequently affected by scarcity and famine. The tribals are poor as a class, and as such, they are devoid of basic necessities of life. They, therefore, often resort to petty thefts, robbery and decoity. This also indicates growing economic insecurity and poverty. The number of cases of crime against persons as recorded by the District Superintendent of Police was 332 in the year 1964. In 1973, it rose to 585. The number of cases of crime connected with the prohibition was 1,127 in the year 1964 and rose to 1,329 in the year 1974. The last two categories of crimes are more or less, related to turbulent castes like Bhil, Thakarda, other backward castes. Tribals, so often, resort to murders because of personal jealousy, women and vengeance. The cases of murders are generally connected with disputes about land or woman. Among the tribals, sex-life is very loose. Pre-marital sex relations with consent is common in certain tribal areas. The increasing number of prohibition cases recorded indicate the vigorous enforcement of prohibition laws by the authority.

Property and Inheritance

As regards inheritance and succession, the Hindus are governed by the Hindu Law and the Muslims by the Mohammadan Law. The system of the Hindu Law, which is followed in Gujarat is the Mitakshara system in general and the Vyavhar Mayukha system in particular. The main principle of inheritance is that the property of a Hindu is never held in abeyance, but devolves on the sons on the death of the father. Under the coparcenary law in force in Gujarat, the son acquires a right in the ancestral property as soon as he is conceived. But the self-acquired property can be disposed of by a person as he wills, as the son does not get any inherent right in such property. The disabilities in respect of inheritance and succession from which women suffered in the past have been removed by the legislature by enacting special laws like the Hindu Marriage Act, 1936, Hindu Women's Right to Property Act, 1937 and the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 which have introduced fundamental changes in the status of women.

The Hindu Marriage Act enforces monogamy and renders bigamy penal. The Hindu Succession Act while breaking violently



with the past lays down uniform system of inheritance and provides for equal treatment of male and female. Another distinguishing feature of these enactments is that any property held by a Hindu female is her absolute property over which she has full powers of disposal. The former restraints and limitations have been removed by making her a full owner and not a limited heir as in the past. Male and female heirs are treated equal without any distinction. When a Hindu male dies intestate, his property devolves in equal shares on his son, daughter, widow and mother. In actual practice, however, this legal provisions do not appear to be fully implemented. The rights of women have thus been fully recognised in law by ensuring equality of rights in all fields of human activity, social, economic and political, first by granting adult suffrage and later by passing social enactments guaranteeing equality of status before the law.

Joint Family---The Hindu family is from time immemorial joint in food, worship and estate. It consists of the head of the family, his wife, their sons married and unmarried, unmarried daughters and grand children living and working together. It was the responsibility of the head of the family to marry the younger members at the proper time, offer oblations to the dead, and propitiate titular deities. The joint income of the family was spent after all the members according to individual need. The widowed, the orphaned, the aged and the disabled were duly looked after. With the passage of time the bonds of joint family system have begun to loosen and the desire for individual freedom and living was necessitated a change in the concept of the family as an economic unit. The need of getting higher and specialised education has separated the younger members from their family for studying at high schools and colleges which are located in towns and cities. On the completion of their studies, many of them like to be settled there, as villages offer no prospects of their employment in profitable pursuits. With the spread of industrialisation and the increasing pressure of population on land, the village people have moved to large industrial and urban centres to secure gainful employment. A large number of joint families have thus begun to disintegrate and the old social order characterised by the joint family system has been undermined under the stress of modern economic conditions and ways of life. The individualistic tendencies are gaining ground day by day, and the former ties which bound the family together are gradually disintegrating. Younger members of the family prefer to live separate rather than continue joint and are particular about their own needs and comforts in preference to those of other members



of the family. Despite these changes, the joint family system still survives though in a diluted form without the former adhesion brought about by the spirit of sacrifice and regard for common welfare.

Place of Women in Society—Women occupied a high position in the Hindu society since the ancient times. Lord Manu had declared that gods reside into those households where women are respected. यत्र नार्यस्तु पूज्यन्ते रमन्ते तत्र देवताः । The husband who cast off his innocent wife was punished by the king. The wife, likewise, was supposed to worship her husband as god (पति देवो भव ।) and to remain faithful to him. The status of women, however, declined after the Mohammadan invasions when seclusion or *pardah* came into vogue as a measure of safety and protection of females. The practice continued thereafter particularly among the Rajput chiefs, and the Zamindars as a mark of social status. Their womenfolk remained confined to the four walls of their houses. The seclusion was stricter in villages than in towns, and greater among the Muslims than among the Hindus. But things have changed much in modern times, and the former seclusion of women has wellnigh disappeared.

During the second half of the present century, the desire for a rise in the level of living and the soaring prices have created problems, unknown in the past. Generally and for the most part, it is men, who are engaged in economic activities though in rural areas among the cultivating classes, women have been giving a helping hand to their male partners in rearing cattle, looking after crops and assisting them in agricultural operations. It was only in towns that women were completely dependent on men and did not take part in any economic activity. At present, in the urban areas with the spread of education women have come out from their homes for employment in social and economic spheres. Women of the labouring classes have always taken an active part along with males by getting themselves employed in occupations involving manual labour.

HOME LIFE

Housing

According to the 1961 Census, the total number of houses were 254,511, of which 192,087 (75.47 per cent) were used as dwellings, shop-cum-dwellings and workshop-cum-dwellings, 34,750 (13.65 per cent) were vacant and the rest 27,674 (10.88 per cent)



were used for non-residential purposes. Of the total houses, 90.67 per cent of the houses were in rural areas and 9.33 per cent were in urban areas. Taking the district as a whole, on an average, out of every thousand Census houses, 137 were vacant as against 863 which were occupied. People staying out of the district for service, business and other economic pursuits, keep their houses vacant in their absence so that the vacant houses may be available to them for temporary stay during school vacations and marriage season.

According to the 1961 Census, the number of households was 189,717 as compared to dwelling houses which numbered 192,087. 92.21 per cent of the households lived in owned houses and the rest in rented houses. The proportion of owned houses was comparatively less in towns than that in villages. In urban areas 61.79 per cent of the households had their own houses, while in rural areas the percentage was as high as 94.81.

Most of the houses in villages had walls of mud or burnt bricks plastered with clay and cowdung emulsion, though grass, leaves, reeds (wattle and daub) or bamboo were in frequent use in the construction of hutments of those who were poor. The roofs were mostly covered with *deshi* or country tiles, though the preference for Vilayati or Manglore tiles is nowadays patent in some villages. In Vadgam, Danta and Palanpur talukas roofs of corrugated sheets are often seen as there is the menace of monkeys in some of the villages. The flooring in a majority of village houses was of beaten earth covered with cowdung emulsion. Stone and cement tiles are used in houses of the well-to-do people.¹

Layout of Towns and Villages

Towns—The general layout of Towns and large-sized villages in this district appears to be of the same pattern with little variations according to the local situations. The traditional structure of wards according to the castes or occupations still exists. Generally, towns are situated either on the bank of the river or some elevated grounds

1. The Statements are reproduced at the end of this chapter from the Housing and Establishment Tables. Census of India 1961, Vol. V., Part IV-B.

(A) Statement III.17 showing Census houses and the uses to which they are put.

(B) Statement III.18 Distribution of sample households living in Census houses used wholly or partly as dwelling by predominant material of wall and predominant material of roof.

(C) Statement III.19 Sample households classified by number of members and by number of rooms occupied.



or hillock or in a hilly tract. For example, Nava Deesa is situated on the bank of the river Banas while Radhanpur is situated near the river Banas. Palanpur is covered and hidden by a circle of hillocks. Some of the towns like Palanpur, Radhanpur, Tharad were in the past, capitals of the State or the seats of some estate-holders and they were protected by forts. Radhanpur was surrounded by a fort-wall built partly of stone and partly of brick with loop-holed walls and seven bastioned gate-ways. Palanpur, Radhanpur, Tharad, Vav, Varahi, Suigam, Danta, Santalpur, etc., which were in the past the capitals or the seats of some estate holders, had their *darbargadh* either in the centre or on one side of the village around which various castes were distributed in the traditional order. The *darbargadh* was the centre of all activities. So all the roads led to the *darbargadh* and the towns grew radially either in semi-circular way or became the dead end near a hill or a river. In towns, the main roads passing across the central area branches off into minor roads leading to the residential area distributed according to the functional characteristics of castes. Some of the lanes are named after the temples, gods and goddesses situated in town. Recently, the names of the new streets in the towns are often associated with names of social and political leaders or some prominent persons of the castes. Generally in every town, there is a central place known as *chowk* with a Municipal-hall or a Panchayat House which serves as a meeting place for elderly persons or a public forum where the common problems are discussed. The traditional pattern in the construction of the building is very common, but the new and modern trends in construction work are also found in the towns of this district.

Villages—Generally, the villages in this district are situated where the natural resources are available for habitation such as water-supply, cultivable land, etc. The old pattern has remained unchanged in small-size villages.

In general, every village has localities earmarked for different castes or occupational groups. In a good number of villages, there is a central place known as *chowk* with public place called *chora* or a Panchayat House which serves as a meeting place for elderly persons where the common village problems are discussed. Generally, the wards of scheduled castes people are situated on the outskirts of the village. They generally live in mud-walled hutments.



The houses of the higher classes are generally in the centre of the village followed by those of artisan and service classes (the Vasvayas). The integrated layout of the houses also varies according to the castes. The houses of traders or artisans are usually shop-cum-dwellings or workshop-cum-dwellings. The house of a Brahman is usually provided with a separate kitchen and water-room with a corner reserved for worship of the household deity. The tribal people like Bhil, Garasia, etc., have no village site or group of houses. Each man lives in his own field. To them, the main use of house was safety and protection of their scanty belongings and cattle against adverse climatic conditions, wild animals and thieves. Some of their houses have no doors.

Furniture and Decoration—The type of furniture used and decorations made in the households in a way reveal the status, the economic condition and the cultural background of the householders. It is an essential item for comfortable living. In urban households, various types of furniture are usually found. A rich family residing in a spacious residence with separate bed-rooms and drawing-rooms usually has a sofa-set, a few chairs, teapoys, study tables, bed-steads and other items of furniture made of wood. A radio-set, wooden or steel cup-boards and decorative mirrors, wall-clocks, etc., are other items in a well-to-do family. An ordinary educated middle class family too has some pieces of furniture on a moderate scale. Others are satisfied with a simple cot, and a chair or two of ordinary type. *Hinchko*, or a swing seems to be favourite with upper classes of people in urban areas.

People in villages are not generally furniture oriented. A well-to-do cultivator uses cots or a few chairs, a *pat*, a simple wall-clock and a wooden cub-board or a *patara* to store his valuables. Houses of well-to-do families in urban areas are decorated with curtains, flower-pots, table lamps, pictures and delicate pieces of wood-work. An ordinary family generally has a picture or two or a calendar on the wall for decoration. In an orthodox household (both in cities and villages), doorways are decorated with *torans* made of glass beads. In the houses walls are also decorated with pictures of gods and goddesses. The Muslims generally prefer wooden and glass furniture. The Vohoras are also fond of glass-ware and decorate their houses with the items of glass, viz., *zumar*, tea-set, etc. The tribal people like Bhils generally do not decorate their houses. They generally keep necessary household items, viz., *khatla*, *kothi*, brass-ware, etc.



FOOD, DRESS AND ORNAMENTS

Food

The Hindus in general are vegetarians in this district. They normally take two meals a day, but those doing physical work including labourers in urban areas, agriculturists, field workers and village artisans take three meals a day, viz., the breakfast in the morning, the full meal in the noon and supper at night. The Jains are the only exceptions to this rule because their religious precepts enjoin them to finish evening meals before sunset. The Rajputs, Thakardas, Backward Classes, Tribals and Muslims take non-vegetarian food. During the last fifty years, tea has become a popular beverage among all classes of people. The Statement III.14 at the end of the chapter, (Page 258) gives details about the food pattern of the people.

Dress

The type of dress varies according to sex, age, marital status, caste, economic condition and seasons. Brahmans, Rajputs and Vaniyas from Rajasthan have migrated to Banaskantha and they are found in Vav, Tharad, Dhanera, Palanpur and Danta. Their dress is influenced by Rajasthan. Santalpur is bordering Kachchh and so language and dress are affected.

There is no remarkable difference in the dress put on by the people in the district from those in other parts of the State. The youngsters have commonly adopted shirts or bush-shirts and modern pants. The head-dress of any kind has gone almost out of fashion among the younger generation, only some of older people, social workers and merchants use it.

In winter to protect from the cold people prefer woollen clothes, such as suit, coat, jersey, sweater, etc., while in other season they normally put on cotton, terene, terry-cotton clothes. Normally tribals put on very scanty dress a loin cloth to cover the lower part of the body. Only on important occasion-assembly or when they go out, they put on shirts and other clothes.

During the last three decades, the dress styles have undergone a tremendous change. The starting of the Swadeshi movement by Mahatma Gandhi who stressed simplicity in dress was responsible



for the change in traditional dress of the people. The sophisticated classes of society discarded foreign cloth and readily resorted to simple clothing made of *khadi*, which had become an emblem of nationalism. The shortage of cloth during World War II, which continued in the post-war period was another reason for the changes in attire. After Independence because of improved communication and contacts with other regional people, inter-State and international pattern of dresses became popular. Films also made great influence on the dresses and fashions of the youngmen. The Statement III.15 at the end of the chapter gives details of the dress pattern of different castes and social groups.

Ornaments

To decorate and enhance the beauty and forms, ornaments are used both by males and females from time immemorial. Ornaments have undergone changes from time to time according to the prevailing fashion. They also differ from community to community. The change is effected not only in their style or design but also in their size, shape, weight and contents. The ornaments used in the past were generally simple, but were solid and heavy. Those in vogue at present are much lighter, refined and sophisticated in design. There is a tendency to use light silver ornaments in preference to heavy gold ornaments as a measure of economy. In the past, ornaments used to serve as decoration and investment and insurance against economic difficulties. The Statement III.16 at the end of the chapter gives details of the ornaments used by the people.

COMMUNAL LIFE

The Garba and Ras

Folk-dance called *garbi*, *garba* or *rasda* is a very interesting and important form of cultural activity. The word *garba* is derived from 'Garbha Dipa.' Its origin can be traced to the religious celebrations of the people. Both men and women actively participate in this form of communal entertainment especially during the Navratri festival. *Garbi*, is generally played by males and is more vigorous and quicker in rhythm as compared with the *garba*, which is played by women.

Bhavai and Ramlila

Bhavai is another traditional mode of entertainment. It is a folk-drama performed at night, and having as its themes, some reli-



gious or social anecdotes which are didactic and entertaining. *Ram-Lila* is also a type of folk-drama. It depicts the life of Lord Rama, and is played in the villages. It gives entertainment with religious teachings. It substituted the theatre, when there was no organised theatre in rural areas.

The *bhavai* used to provide occasionally good diversion to village folk. Its usefulness still lies in its spontaneity, its folk-lore and entertainment to the villagers who easily follow and enjoy it. It brings entertainment cheaply at their door-steps. After Independence, efforts are, therefore, being made to revive the folk-drama, *bhavai* by the State as a form of popular entertainment. The *bhavai* is one of the important items in the annual drama festival organised by the Gujarat State. Bhojaks or Targalas, Turis and Mirs are the persons who are engaged in Bhavai.

The Adivasis have a special place in the field of folk-music and folk-dance. The folk songs and music have a special significance for them at the time of fairs, festivals and social occasions like marriage. Folk-dance is a necessary concomitant of the celebration of all such occasions. They are principal means of recreation, as organised entertainment like dramas and other programmes is rare in such communities. The Adivasis are very fond of their dances which involve simple but vigorous rhythmic steps. Accompanied by musical instruments like *dhol* or drum, bronze disc, *kundi* and *pavo* or flute they dance in groups. Men forming a large circle go round and round while playing upon the instruments. Women form a smaller inner circle while going round in a similar fashion. Dancing is sometimes accompanied by folk-songs, which though sung loudly, are drowned in the fierce beating of the drum. Such dances go on for hours to end, with fresh persons taking the place of tired dancers. They are altogether colourful and spectacular.

Among the tribal people like the Bhils, every important phase of their life, be it a marriage or death, a religious rite or a harvest operation, is blended with song and dance. On account of their intense emotional value, dances have entered into all their activities of life.

As this district is situated near the border of Rajasthan the people of Danta and Vadgam talukas remained in close contact with the people of the border area of Rajasthan. The people from Rajasthan border,



therefore, also visit the Ambaji and sing songs in their local dialect. On full moon days and during the Navratri festivals the tribals of these areas visit Ambaji and perform dances to celebrate the festivals.

Public Games and Recreation

Games provide one of the ways in which people like to pass their leisure time. The purpose of public games is to create leadership, communal life and brotherhood among the people. Students in general play a number of indigenous outdoor games such as *hu-tu-tu*, (*kabaddi*), *kho-kho*, *gedi-dada*, *atapata*, *ambli-pipli*, etc., which develop strength, ability and endurance. They are still played both in towns and villages but not with the same interest as in the past. Hunting, archery, swimming are very common among Adivasis. In rural areas generally the Indian games are favoured because of their cheapness. The youngsters of rural areas play *ambli pipli*, *santa-kukadi*, *bai-bai-charni*, *khari-mithi*, *sai-thikri*, etc. These games are now gradually disappearing in the urban areas as their place is taken by western games, such as cricket, foot-ball, volley-ball and athletics. Facilities for playing such games are provided in schools, colleges, sports clubs and gymnasia. When the taluka and district sports are held, a large number of young boys and girls participate in the games very enthusiastically. Among indoor games, the game of playing cards has gained popularity. In towns, there are clubs and gymnasia in which some people of upper classes go in the evening, mostly to play badminton, bridge, table-tennis, etc.

The district has a number of sports clubs and recreation centres such as the Rotary Club, Lions Club at Palanpur and Deesa ; Sarvanjanik Vyayamshala, Palanpur ; Sports Club, Deesa ; Yuvak Kalyan Kendra, Deesa ; Y.M.C.A. Club, Palanpur ; Vadgam taluka Vyayam Mandal, Vadgam ; Vyayam Shala Magarwada and Thara ; Rang Upavan Kala Sanstha, Palanpur ; Friends Club, Palanpur ; etc. But the majority of people have little interest and no time and money to spare after such clubs. For them occasional visits to the cinema theatre is the only form of common entertainment. Old men and women and some of the adults rest content with visiting some temples or *ashrams*, either to hear *katha*, *kirtan*, *bhajan* or religious discourses or have *darshan* of the deity.

For the adults, in rural areas *bhajan mandalis* and *ras mandalis* provide rest and recreation at night, when males assemble at the



village *chora* or at any public place in the village and pass their time in singing devotional songs, *bhajans* and *kirtans*. The *garbas* are organised occasionally by the Mahila Mandals for the young ladies, while the small girls play *wagh-kukari*, *kuka*. The tribal people revel in folk-songs and dances. They are fond of singing and dancing at the place of a Patel when they find themselves free from manual work. Community Development programme for the tribal and rural welfare has sustained and revived the old forms, which are still popular with the people at large. Few centres of activities such as youth clubs and the Mahila Mandals occasionally provide entertainment along with constructive activities connected with rural welfare.

CALENDAR

The Hindu Calendar

According to the Indian tradition significant activities celebrations of festivals and auspicious days are associated closely with the different systems of time-reckoning or the Calendars in vogue in different parts of the country. The various systems of time-reckoning which regulate the celebration of festivals in the district even to this day are the Vikram era and the Hijri era.

The people in general in this district follow the Vikram Samvat (era) which precedes the Christian era by fifty-six years. The year begins with the month of Kartik and is divided into three seasons, namely, the winter consisting of the months of Kartik, Margashirsh, Paush and Magha, the summer extending over the months of Phalgun, Chaitra, Vaishakha and Jyeshtha and the monsoon over the months of Ashadh, Shravan, Bhadrapad and Ashvin. Each month is divided into two fortnights, the *shukla paksha*, the bright fortnight, when the moon is waxing and the *krishna paksha*, the dark fortnight when the moon is waning. Dates are reckoned by the day of the fortnight of each month.

The Jain Calendar

The Jains specially follow Vir Samvatsara which commenced in 527 B.C., from the day, when Mahavir, the last of the twenty-four Jain Tirthankaras, attained *nirvan* for the observance of their religious practices and events.



CHAPTER III—PEOPLE

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The Muslim Calendar

The Muslims in the district follow the Vikram era for accounting and commercial purposes. For their religious and social purposes, they however, follow the Hijri era. The Hijri era is Arabic in origin. It came into being from 15th July, 622 A.D., in the 42nd of the life of prophet Mohammed to commemorate his migration (*hijrat*) from Mecca to Madina. A year according to this era is divided in to the following twelve months ;

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Muharram | 2. Safar |
| 3. Rabi-ul-Awwal | 4. Rabi-us-Sani |
| 5. Jamadi-ul-Awwal | 6. Jamadi-us-Sani |
| 7. Rajab | 8. Shaaban |
| 9. Ramzan | 10. Shawwal |
| 11. Zilqaad | 12. Zilhijja. |

FESTIVALS

Festivals as they are celebrated in this country symbolise people's cultural, social and religious aspirations which, besides, helping them to lead a fuller and better life, also mitigate its monotony by providing physical diversion and mental recreation. Though principally associated with religion, there are a number of occasions wherein the social aspect assumes prominence. In fact, festivals are special days, periods of time and season, which are so designed as to ensure individual joy by practising religion coupled with social joy and domestic happiness. They are primarily connected with religious days and agricultural operations.

The Hindu Festivals

The Hindus have a number of festivals all the year round. The principal festivals which are observed by almost all the castes and classes in the district include the Diwali and the new Year's Day, Makara Sanskranti, Holi, Balev, Navratri and Dassera, besides Maha shivratri, Ramnavami and Janmasthanami, which are mainly observed by the followers of the respective sects. There are a number of other festivals such as Bhai Bij, Dev Diwali, Vasant Panchami, Nag Panchami, Rushi Panchami, Shitla Satam, Ganesh Chaturthi, etc., which are also popular in the district. The Akhatrij or Akshaya Trutiya falling on Vaishakha Sud 3 and the Bhadarvi Amas occurring on the



amavasya of Shravan have special significance for agriculturists. The Akhatrij is considered auspicious for commencing agricultural operations. The agriculturists perform certain rites before their bullocks and implements and apply *kum kum* and adorn them with flowers. On Bhadarvi Amas, which is considered to be the holiest among the *amavasyas*, the farmers worship their bullocks and feed them.

To devout Hindus, every *ekadashi* is a sacred festival to be celebrated by observing fast and performing *kirtan*. Of all the *ekadashis*, those falling on Kartika Sud 11 (*Dev-Uthi* or Prabodhini Ekadashi) and Jyeshtha Sud 11 (*Dev Podhi* Ekadashi) are specially sacred. There are certain religious festivals, which have special significance for ladies. These include Aluna Vrata, during the month of Chaitra, when women take *aluna* or saltless diet, the Vat Savitri Purnima (Jyeshtha Sud 15) when married women worship a banyan tree and keep awake the whole night for nuptial bliss and long life for their husbands, the Gauri Vrata or Jaya-Parvati Vrata observed for five days from Ashadh Sud 11 to 15, both by married women and unmarried girls in dedication to the worship of goddess Gauri or Parvati and Divaso (falling on the last day of Ashadh), when the Hindu women observe fast and keep awake the whole night to please goddess Parvati for marital bliss. The Randhan Chhath (Shravan Vad 6) is an important day for ladies, which is devoted to cooking food for the day following sacred to the Shitla Mata. As the goddess Shitla is supposed to move about among the hearths, artificial heat by kindling the fire, in the oven of hearth is, therefore, aschewed on that day for fear of annoying the goddess. In the morning of Shitla Satam, the lady of the house worships the goddess under a *pipal* tree (*ficus religiosa*) whereafter the food cooked on the previous day is offered to the members of the household. Worship of Shitla and Nag (King Kobra) reveal the non-Aryan influence on Hindu religion.

The Jain Festivals

The Jain festivals are generally associated with severe austerities, fasting and worship. The devotee is required to avoid, in addition to roots, which are prohibited on ordinary days leafy vegetables, dry fruits, tasty food preparations, milk and curds and in some cases even water, when severe austerities and penance are enjoined.

The principal Jain festivals are the Paryushana, the Oli (Siddha-chakra Puja), the Kartik Purnima and the Mahavir Jayanti.



The Muslim Festivals

The two sects of the Muslims, Sunnis and Shiahs, have different holidays except Muharram, Ramzan, Id-e-Milad and Bakri-Id festivals which are common to both. In the beginning of the year comes the month of Muharram, which is held by Shiahs in special veneration as being the month in which Imam Hussain the son of Ali was killed.

The thirteenth of Safar is known as Tera Tezi or Talan Tezi and kept by Sunnis to commemorate the Prophet's recovery from a severe sickness. Another important day is the twelfth of the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal, the Wafat or day of the Prophet's death. This day is called Id-e-Milad, as it is also the day of the birth of the Prophet. The *gyarvi* festival falls on the eleventh day of Rabi-us-Sani on which Sunnis celebrate the birth of Saiyad Abdul Kadir Jilani by illuminating their houses and eating *malidah* (powder sugar bread) at night. On the first eleven nights of Rabi-ul-Awwal in honour of Prophet's birth *waazes* (sermons) are delivered, a large number of people attend them and on the eleventh day, charitable people give a morsel of sacred food called *taburruk* to every one present. The Shab-e-Barat is characterised by the preparation of special dishes, which are distributed to the poor after the recitation of *fatiha* (opening chapter of the Quran) and by feasting of friends and relations. Greater than this festival is the Id-ul-Fitr commonly known as Ramzan-Id which falls on the first day of Shawwal. Muslims—Sunnis and Shiahs of all ages and both sexes take bath, put on new clothes, apply perfumes, go to the mosque, and thereafter meet friends and relations and bid them good luck and god-speed on this day. The Id-e-Baqr falls on the tenth day of Zilhijja and is characterised, like Ramzan Id by prayers in mosques. The eighteenth of Zilhijja is a great Shiah holiday known as Id-e-Ghadir or the lake holiday. On third day, the Prophet seated by a lake proclaimed in a joyous moment that Ali was his own flesh and blood. Shiahs also observe the twenty eighth of Zilhijja as a festival of three days in memory of Baba Shuja-ud din a fire worshipping convert to Islam.

Pilgrim Places

In this district following places are well-known as places of pilgrimage for the Hindus ; Ambaji, Koteshwar and Kumbhariya in Danta taluka ; Bhildi and Deesa in Deesa taluka ; Chitrasani



(Balaram) in Palanpur taluka ; Dhima in Vav taluka and Mokeshvar in Vadgam taluka. Among these places the Bhildi and the Bhoral, Kumbhariya are important and sacred places for the Jains.

The village Thara in Kankrej taluka is also considered an important pilgrim place for the Bharvad community. Here there are two important religious shrines or places known as the Valinath Mahadev and the Jasraj Zazavada Dev.

FAIRS

Fairs are generally associated with deities, religious rituals and agricultural seasons. The following Statement III.20 at the end of the chapter gives information about the names of deities to which the fairs are sacred, month in which they are held and the number of persons participating in the fairs.

According to the 1961 Census the total number of fairs held in the district was 93. The congregation at these fairs varies according to the season and exigencies of agricultural operations. Among the total fairs, 27 are held in reverence to Lord Shiva. Next in order, 17 fairs are dedicated to Mataji, 10 fairs to Lord Krishna, 10 fairs to local saints, 8 fairs to Ramdev Pir while 3 fairs are dedicated to Muslim Pirs. Rest of the fairs are dedicated to the Nakalang Bhagwan, Shitla Mata, Hanuman, Serpent god, local heroes, local deities, etc.

Because of religious, social, historical and numerical importance some of the fairs are worthy to note. During the fairs, besides the usual religious practices of having a dip in the holy waters of the river and reverence to the deity, cultural activities such as film shows, exhibitions, etc., are also organised by the Taluka Panchayats.

In this district the following fairs are important and have greater social significance.

1. The Ambaji fair,
2. Balaram fair,
3. The Bhiladiyaji fair,
4. The Navani fair, and
5. The Dhuleti fair.

The details of the fairs held in this district are given in the Statement III-21 appended at the end of this chapter.



THE NEW TRENDS

Banaskantha district is one of the most backward district of the Gujarat State. In the past, there were small princely States, like Palanpur, Radhanpur, Tharad, Vav, etc. in this area. These States were small in area and population and were poor in natural resources. Most of the rulers and the chiefs were not interested in the welfare of the people. During their rule, some progress was visible only in the capitals of the States. Public amenities like schools and hospitals were found only in the chief towns. The general level of literacy specially among the women was very low. The pace of industrialisation and urbanisation was very slow and as a result, the people from advanced communities migrated to Bombay, Ahmadabad and to foreign countries, in search of jobs and business as jewellers, cloth merchants, etc.

After Independence the process of change gained momentum. There was expansion of primary education in the district and now few villages are without school facilities. The Adivasis and other backward class students have, however, not taken full advantage of the new opportunities offered to them. The progress of secondary schools also is not upto the mark, as compared to the progress in other parts of the State. A humble beginning is made in the field of higher education. Under the impact of the Five Year Plans, the pattern in dresses, ornaments, social customs, food and other habits of the people, their mode of living, etc., have undergone considerable change. With the diversification of occupations and spread of education, the social barriers are gradually breaking down. The rigidity of caste-system has lost its former rigours in urban areas. The evil of untouchability persists to some extent particularly in the rural areas and is limited among certain classes of people. The social legislation for abolition of untouchability has not made much impact on the rural population. The extension of general and professional education has opened up new avenues of employment under the Five Year Plans. In matters of dress some changes are found in urban areas because of the contact with people of advanced areas of the State and other States. The dress pattern of the Adivasis, Harijans, Thakardas, Kolis and Rabaris has remained unchanged. They have not adopted new pattern of fashions and have continued wearing traditional dresses. Particularly, in the rural areas, the impact of modernisation is completely negligible. Still, however, the people have become politically conscious and take interest in the elections whether they are of the



Panchayats or of the State legislature or of the Parliament. Caste is still the dominant factor in elections. The purchasing power of agriculturists has also increased with the result that they spend money levishly. With the introduction of the Panchayati Raj, the farmers have acquired political power to reckon with, as vote-banks both at the State level and the district level.

After Independence, the entire landscape of agricultural economy has changed under the impact of the Five Year Plans. Government has provided financial and technical assistance in the form of improved variety of seeds, fertilizers, agricultural tools and techniques. There is considerable feather-bedding of agricultural schemes.

Formerly, there prevailed Jagirdari, Inamdari, Vanta or Giras, the Devasthan Inam tenure, systems in this district. These have been abolished by undertaking various legislative measures from 1947 onwards. The land reform measures cover abolition of intermediaries such as holders of Jagirdars, Inamdars, Vanta or Giras, the Devasthan Inam tenure, etc. The tenancy reforms provide for security of tenure and regulation of rent. The intermediaries between the State and the actual cultivators have now been mostly removed. As a result of the land reforms, the tenants have become owners of the land. The concept of private ownership has given the cultivators incentive for investment of capital and labour in the development of lands under their cultivation. After implementation of the land reforms, a few persons remain as landless agricultural labourers. After acquisition of the occupancy rights, cultivators are now able to procure loans from banks and Government, for improvement of their lands and crops. Formerly the Government and *shahukars* alone provided for the loans to the cultivators. Later on the Co-operative Credit Societies, the State Land Development Bank and other nationalised Banks have started giving grant or loans to cultivators. Thus, now the cultivators are in a position to make their lands fit for growing cash crops like Castor Seeds, *Raido*, Sarsav, Jeera Seeds, Isabgul, etc. Scarcity of drinking water is felt in talukas on the western and southern border of the district. The river Banas, with its tributaries is the life line of the district. It is the longest river in the district. Because of years of scarcity and famines, economy was in poor shape in the past. Now tubewells and the Dantiwada Project have helped to change the pattern of agricultural economy.



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Under the Five Year Plans, roads have been constructed opening the remotest areas; and some industries are coming up, in Deesa and Palanpur providing greater employment to the people. The improved condition has resulted in the elevation of cultivators' social status and educational standard. Formerly, the district was poor in means of communications, but after Independence, the Kandla-Deesa railway lines and the Bhiladi-Raniwada railway lines were constructed. As a result, the new centres of trade, such as Bhabhar, Bhiladi, Deodar, Dhanera, etc., have come into existence. The construction of national and State highways also has played an important part in linking some of the important towns of the district with the neighbouring districts of Mahesana and Kachchh and also with the Rajasthan State. The development in the communications has a vital role to play for defence as the district is nearer to the Pakistan border. The increased means of transport and communications has facilitated migration from village to towns and cities. The entire economy of the district has undergone some transformation as a result of concerted efforts made by the State and the people in various walks of life.

To sum up, the society which was static before Independence is in a process of continuous change due to the impact of the development programmes under the Five Year Plans. The transition from tradition to modernity is not complete. This is very slow. With the introduction of new tools and techniques of agricultural production and incentive measures taken for the development of agricultural and small scale industries by Government, the employment opportunities have increased and the people have acquired more purchasing power. This change is reflected in their level of living. They, have now started using modern gimmicks such as radios, tractors, tereylene clothes, better food and well-built and well-furnished houses. On the whole, the people have a better standard of living consequent upon improvement of their economic conditions. Inter-State and international mobility has greatly increased. The Vania community of Banaskantha district being very enterprising their caste people from Radhanpur, Tharad, Deesa and Palanpur have migrated to Bombay, Ahmedabad and to foreign countries.



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STATEMENT

Dress of the

Community/Group/Caste	Rural/ Urban	Males		Males's Headwear
		Upper garment	Lower garment	
1	2	3	4	5
Hindus :				
Vania, Brahman, Patel, Luhana, Brahma-Ksha- triya, etc.	Rural	Khami's or Shirt, Bush shirt, Jabhho Bandi or Coat	<i>Dhoti</i> or Payjamo, Pant, <i>Lengho</i> , or Lungi or Panchiyu	Topi, Paghadi.
	Urban	"	"	"
Kanbi	Rural	Kediyu, Paheeran, Angarkhu	Adhivato or Dhoti	Faliyu
	Urban	"	"	"
Rajput, Thakor, Garasia	Rural	Kedya, Paheeran, Angarkhu, Shirt or bush-shirt	Surval or Pay- jamo or Dhoti	Faliyu or Fento or Safo
	Urban	"	"	"
Rabari, Ayar, Bharvad Koli.	Rural	Angadi, Angar- khu, Bandiyu	Angadi, Chorno	Red Fento Faliyu,
	Urban	"	"	"
Harijan or other Bac- kward classes	Rural	Paheeran	Adhivato or Dhoti.	Topi
	Urban	"	"	"
Bhil, Nayaka and other Tribal people.	Rural	Paheeran Bush-shirt	Dhoti	Red or white Kapdu.
	Urban	"	"	"
Muslims	Rural	Shirt, Jabhho, Shervant,	Payjama, Len- gho, Chudidar payjamo, Lungi, Pant.	Topi or Tur- kish or Fercap.
	Urban	"	"	"

Source :

The Taluka Development Officers, Banaskantha District.

* Statement III. 14-Food of the People-is on Page No. 258.

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People

Females		Boys		Girls	
Upper garment 6	Lower garment 7	Upper garment 8	Lower garment 9	Upper garment 10	Lower garment 11
Sari, blouse or Choli.	Ghaghro or Chaniyo.	Shirt, bush shirt	Modern pant Lengho, Chaddi etc.	Sari, blouse or Choli and frock	Chaniyo, Ghaghro, Chaddi.
"	"	"	"	Sari, blouse or chori, frock one piece, skirt.	" Mini-skirt, bell-bottom and various type of pants.
Odhanu	Chaniya	Kediyu	Potdi	Polku	Ghaghari
"	"	"	"	"	"
"	"	Kediya, Shirt or Bush-shirt.	Potdi, Lengho, Pant, chaddi	Polku, Odhani, Choli	Ghaghari, Chaniyo.
"	"	"	"	"	"
Embroidered Odhani or Odhnu.	Embroidered Chaniya or Chaniya.	Kediyu	Potdi	"	"
"	"	"	"	"	"
Odhanu	Chaniya	Paheran	Chaddi, Lengho, Pant.	"	"
"	"	"	"	"	"
Polku, Sari	Ghaghro	Khamis, Bush-shirt.	Chaddi	Polku, Frock	Ghaghari
"	"	"	"	"	"
Kurta or frock, Dupatta	Payjamo or Ijar.	Khamish, Jabhho, Sher-vani.	Lengho, Pant, Lungi, Payjamo.	Punjabi frock, Dupatto, Sari.	Payjamo, Chudidar, Ijar, Ghaghara
"	"	"	"	"	"



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STATEMENT III.16

Ornaments of the People

Caste-group 1	Rural/Urban 2	Male ornaments 3	Female ornaments 4
Vania, Brahman, Patel, etc.	Rural	<i>Kanathi</i> or chain round the neck, gold or silver ring in finger, golden chain with buttons on their upper garment, wrist-watch.	<i>Sankala</i> or <i>zanzar</i> on the feet, <i>patla</i> or bangles on the wrist, <i>kadu</i> or locket on the arm; <i>hansdi</i> or chain or <i>har</i> or necklace or <i>acchoda</i> around the neck and <i>mangal sutra</i> if married; earring or <i>butti</i> or <i>kadi</i> made of gold or pearls or precious stone set in gold on ear and <i>kandoro</i> on waist; ring on finger, <i>chumi</i> , <i>chunk</i> , <i>nath</i> , or <i>vali</i> or <i>kanto</i> in the nose, hair-pin, clip, buckle or <i>chipiya</i> to fix hair, wristwatch.
	Urban	<i>Kanathi</i> or chain round the neck, gold or silver ring in finger, wrist-watch.	„
Koli, Bharvad, Ayar	Rural	Silver <i>kada</i> on hand, <i>kandoro</i> around the waist, silver <i>bedi</i> on feet, <i>vali</i> on ears.	Silver <i>hansdi</i> or golden <i>Kanathi</i> or <i>madaliyu</i> around the neck, <i>bor</i> on the head, silver or golden <i>kadu</i> or ivory plated <i>balaiya</i> on hands, silver <i>zanzar</i> or <i>chhada</i> or <i>kadla</i> or <i>sankala</i> on feet.
	Urban	„	„
Tribal people	Rural	Silver <i>kadu</i> on hand, <i>vinti</i> , <i>anguthi</i> or <i>tumpiyo</i> on fingers, <i>bedi</i> or <i>sankala</i> on feet.	<i>Vansadi</i> or <i>vadlo</i> or silver <i>chir</i> on head; hair pin or clip or buckle or <i>chipiya</i> to fix hair; <i>tumpiyo</i> or <i>kanthi</i> or <i>har</i> around the neck, <i>nathani</i> or <i>kanto</i> in nose, <i>dorna</i> or <i>pandadyu</i> or earring on ears; <i>chudlo</i> or <i>balaiya</i> or silver/ivory plated bangles; silver <i>kandoro</i> around the waist; <i>kadla</i> , <i>todiyo</i> , <i>sankala</i> , <i>vedhi</i> or <i>kopiyo</i> on feet.
	Urban	„	„

Source :

The Taluka Development Officers,, Banaskantha district.

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STATEMENT III.17
Census Houses and the Uses to which They are Put

District/Taluka/Mahal/ City/Town with Population of 50,000 or more 1	Total/ Rural/ Urban 2	Total No. of Census Houses 3	Census Houses vacant at the time of houselisting 4	Occupied Census Houses used as:					Others 9
				Dwellings 5	Shop-cum- dwellings 6	Workshop-cum- dwellings 7	Non- dwellings 8		
Banaskantha District	T	254,511	34,750	189,838	1,644	605	10,452	17,222	
	R	230,759	30,290	175,078	1,485	395	7,433	16,078	
	U	23,752	4,460	14,760	159	210	3,019	1,144	
1 Palanpur	T	55,474	10,166	36,423	200	31	2,457	6,197	
	R	44,588	7,738	29,731	149	3	1,112	5,855	
	U	10,886	2,428	6,692	51	28	1,345	342	
2 Danta	R	13,130	1,040	10,105	119	8	433	1,425	
3 Vadgam .. .	R	30,124	7,002	18,554	126	71	1,090	3,281	
4 Dhanera .. .	R	23,758	3,574	17,783	125	69	718	1,489	
5 Deesa	T	36,422	5,692	27,237	212	221	1,533	1,527	
	R	30,660	5,004	23,618	158	49	742	1,089	
	U	5,762	688	3,619	54	172	791	438	
6 Kankrej	R	19,829	1,832	16,427	197	64	890	419	
7 Vav	R	17,831	720	15,808	160	..	676	467	
8 Tharad	T	15,766	673	14,184	190	2	507	210	
	R	13,614	365	12,768	164	2	193	122	
	U	2,152	308	1,416	26	..	314	88	
9 Deodar	R	17,993	1,395	14,897	169	3	846	683	
10 Radhanpur ..	T	13,788	1,706	10,158	79	13	748	1,084	
	R	8,836	670	7,125	51	3	179	808	
	U	4,952	1,036	3,033	28	10	569	276	
11 Santalpur ..	R	10,396	950	8,262	67	123	554	440	

Source :

Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part IV-B, *Housing and Establishment Tables*, (E-Series Tables), pp. 14-17.

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STATEMENT III.18

Distribution of Sample Households living in Census Houses used Wholly or Partly as Dwelling By Predominant Material of Wall and Predominant Material of Roof (Based on 20% Sample)

District/Taluka/Mahal/ City/Town with popu- lation of 50,000 or more 1	Total/ Rural/ Urban 2	Total No. of households 3	Predominant Material of Wall						
			Grass, leaves, Reeds or Bamboo 4	Timber 5	Mud 6	Unburnt bricks 7	Burnt bricks 8	C.I. sheets or other metal sheets 9	Stone 10
Banaskantha District	.. T	38,567	1,270	277	25,214	999	9,857	159	750
	R	35,523	1,247	243	24,800	992	7,301	159	749
	U	3,044	23	34	414	7	2,556	..	1
1 Palanpur ..	.. T	7,356	132	22	2,629	314	4,226	1	21
	R	5,994	124	19	2,564	314	2,943	1	21
	U	1,362	8	3	65	..	1,283	..	..
2 Danta* ..	.. R	2,065	188	..	1,320	1	410	..	131
3 Vadgam* ..	.. R	3,764	71	1	966	125	2,598	..	3
4 Dhanera* ..	.. R	3,599	68	12	2,831	189	308	154	37
5 Deesa ..	.. T	5,550	102	8	4,235	217	968	..	15
	R	4,778	87	7	4,110	210	349	..	14
	U	772	15	1	125	7	619	..	1
6 Kankrej* ..	.. R	3,354	238	..	2,862	2	246	1	5
7 Vav* ..	.. R	3,221	28	34	3,008	25	121	..	5
8 Tharad ..	.. T	2,883	2	1	2,593	93	186	1	..
	R	2,593	2	1	2,465	93	25	1	..
	U	290	..	..	128	..	161	..	..
9 Deodar* ..	.. R	3,022	41	49	2,774	26	109	2	20
10 Radhanpur ..	.. T	2,057	135	147	1,177	..	575	..	21
	R	1,437	135	117	1,081	..	82	..	21
	U	620	..	30	96	..	493	..	..
11 Santalpur* ..	.. R	1,696	265	3	819	7	110	..	492

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STATEMENT III.18—contd.

District/Taluka/Mahal/ City/Town with popu- lation of 50,000 or more 1		Predominant Material of Roof									
		Total/ Rural/ Urban 2	Cement concrete 11	All other material 12	Grass, leaves, Reeds, thatch, wood or Bamboo 13	Tiles, Slate Shingle 14	Corrugated iron, zinc or other metal sheets 15	Asbestos cement sheets 16	Brick and lime 17	Concrete and stone 18	All other material 19
Banaskantha District	.. T	18	23	6,536	28,318	3,055	51	27	541	39	
	R	12	20	6,359	26,731	2,032	35	23	306	37	
	U	6	3	177	1,587	1,023	16	4	235	2	
1 Palanpur	.. T	8	3	341	5,375	1,364	14	12	242	8	
	R	7	1	302	4,994	623	9	12	48	6	
	U	1	2	39	381	741	5	..	194	2	
2 Danta	.. R	2	13	141	1,829	59	..	6	28	2	
3 Vadagam*	.. R	..	..	151	2,934	651	1	3	24	..	
4 Dhanera*	.. R	..	..	460	2,726	364	17	1	29	2	
5 Deesa	.. T	5	..	664	4,496	390	12	..	78	..	
	R	1	..	596	4,024	100	3	..	55	2	
	U	4	..	68	472	200	9	..	23	..	
6 Kankrej*	.. R	..	..	588	2,643	110	1	..	10	2	
7 Vav*	.. R	..	..	1,152	2,028	40	..	..	1	..	
8 Tharad	.. T	1	6	1,299	1,483	71	3	3	1	23	
	R	..	6	1,268	1,269	29	3	1	..	23	
	U	1	..	31	214	42	..	2	1	..	
9 Deodar*	.. R	1	..	825	2,129	32	1	..	34	1	
10 Radhanpur	.. T	1	1	460	1,471	55	2	2	67	..	
	R	1	..	421	951	15	..	..	50	..	
	U	1	1	39	520	40	2	2	17	..	
11 Santalpur*	.. R	..	..	455	1,204	9	..	..	27	1	

*Entirely rural.

Source:

Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part IV-B, Housing and Establishment Tables, (E-Series Tables), pp. 486-487.

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STATEMENT III,19
Sample Households Classified by Number of Members and by Number of Rooms Occupied (Based on 20% Sample)

District/Taluka/ Mahal/City/Town with population of 50,000 or more 1	T R U 2	Total number of households 3	Total number of members		Total number of rooms 6	Households with no regular room			Households with one room			Household
			Males 4	Females 5		Number of households 7	Number of members		Number of households 10	Number of members		Number of households 13
							Males 8	Females 9		Males 11	Females 12	
Banaskantha District	T	38,567	102,393	96,104	46,582	222	580	523	32,211	82,861	77,523	4,787
	R	35,523	95,283	89,341	41,668	219	576	517	30,241	78,691	73,650	4,139
	U	3,044	7,110	6,763	4,914	3	4	6	1,970	4,170	3,873	648
1 Palanpur	T	7,356	18,243	17,367	8,422	151	420	384	6,436	15,810	15,033	546
	R	5,994	15,305	14,584	6,239	148	416	378	5,532	14,070	13,410	269
	U	1,362	2,938	2,783	2,183	3	4	6	904	1,740	1,623	277
2 Danta*	R	2,065	5,392	4,927	2,300	5	12	12	1,843	4,756	4,360	195
3 Vadgam*	R	3,764	9,122	8,901	3,895	4	9	13	3,650	8,838	8,604	95
4 Dhanera*	R	3,599	9,257	8,411	3,855	7	11	5	3,389	8,625	7,865	159
5 Deesa	T	5,550	14,986	13,885	6,496	6	15	11	4,817	12,728	11,745	578
	R	4,778	12,967	12,011	5,350	6	15	11	4,286	11,485	10,609	421
	U	772	2,019	1,874	1,146	..	..	..	531	1,243	1,136	157
6 Kankrej*	R	3,354	9,518	8,934	4,079	1	4	4	2,797	7,643	7,181	449
7 Vav*	R	3,221	8,566	8,189	4,601	22	34	40	2,171	5,416	5,132	765
8 Tharad	T	2,883	8,361	7,890	4,116	1	2	3	1,900	5,044	4,678	800
	R	2,593	7,613	7,184	3,696	1	2	3	1,703	4,581	4,262	725
	U	290	748	706	420	..	..	..	197	463	416	75
9 Deodar*	R	3,022	8,738	8,172	3,764	4	8	5	2,418	6,668	6,153	495
10 Radhanpur	T	2,057	5,529	5,142	2,868	19	59	44	1,511	4,018	3,704	348
	R	1,437	4,124	3,742	1,703	19	59	44	1,173	3,294	3,006	209
	U	620	1,405	1,400	1,165	..	..	..	338	724	698	139
11 Santalpur*	R	1,696	4,681	4,286	2,186	2	6	2	1,279	3,315	3,068	357

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STATEMENT III.19—Contd.

District/Taluka/ Mahal/City/Town with population of 50,000 or more 1	T R U	With two rooms		Households with three rooms		Households with four rooms		Households with five rooms or more				
		Number of members		Number of households	Number of members		Number of households	Number of members				
		Males	Females		Males	Females		Males	Females			
		2	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Banaskantha District	T	14,459	13,610	902	2,970	2,982	314	1,094	1,034	131	474	432
	R	12,748	11,982	699	2,394	2,378	177	663	641	48	211	173
	U	1,711	1,628	203	576	604	137	386	393	83	263	259
1 Palanpur	T	1,418	1,344	97	255	265	80	204	195	46	136	146
	R	708	689	32	73	75	9	17	16	4	21	16
	U	710	655	65	182	190	71	187	179	42	115	130
2 Danta*	R	568	498	21	55	56	1	1	1	..	..	..
3 Vadgam*	R	234	244	8	25	23	4	9	7	3	7	10
4 Dhanera*	R	457	405	33	120	92	8	36	33	3	8	11
5 Deesa	T	1,708	1,608	103	349	349	33	126	118	13	60	54
	R	1,248	1,161	48	148	166	14	60	47	3	11	17
	U	460	447	55	201	183	19	66	71	10	49	37
6 Kankrej*	R	1,459	1,366	86	307	321	15	52	55	16	53	7
7 Vav*	R	2,256	2,139	188	605	619	60	200	203	15	55	56
8 Tharad	T	2,623	2,533	131	476	466	38	164	164	13	52	46
	R	2,405	2,307	124	448	441	31	143	137	9	34	34
	U	218	226	7	28	25	7	21	27	4	18	12
9 Deodar*	R	1,631	1,574	86	346	346	16	70	79	3	15	15
10 Radhanpur	T	960	865	108	284	319	44	127	130	27	81	80
	R	637	565	32	119	113	4	15	14	..	..	..
	U	323	300	76	165	206	40	112	116	27	81	80
11 Santalpur*	R	1,145	1,034	41	148	126	15	60	49	2	7	7

*Entirely rural.

Source : Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part IV-B, *Housing and Establishment Tables* (E-Series Tables), pp. 516-517.

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STATEMENT III.20
Fairs According to Deity, Months and Size of Congregation (In Descending Order of Congregation)

Deity	Month	Total		Below 5,000		5,000 to 9,999		10,000 to 24,999		25,000 to 49,999		50,000 and above	
		No. of fairs	Congre- gation	No. of fairs	Congre- gation	No. of fairs	Congre- gation	No. of fairs	Congre- gation	No. of fairs	Congre- gation	No. of fairs	Congre- gation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Total	.. ..	93	497,039	76	122,175	8	56,500	6	93,364	2	75,000	1	150,000
MATAJI	<i>Total</i>	17	232,514	13	25,400	..	..	3	57,114	..	..	1	150,000
	February	2	5,500	2	5,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	March	2	2,500	2	2,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	April	3	26,022	2	4,750	..	..	1	21,272	..	..	..	..
	September	2	25,332	1	1,000	..	..	1	24,332	..	..	..	..
	October	3	154,000	2	4,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	150,000
	November	5	19,160	4	7,650	..	..	1	11,510	..	..	..	..
SHIVA	<i>Total</i>	27	94,875	23	35,375	3	19,500	..	..	1	40,000	..	..
	February	5	9,650	4	4,650	1	5,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
	March	1	2,500	1	2,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	April	1	1,900	1	1,900	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	July	1	4,500	1	4,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	August	8	48,150	7	8,150	..	..	..	..	1	40,000	..	..
	September	3	14,100	2	5,100	1	9,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
	November	8	14,075	7	8,575	1	5,500	..	..	..	..	..	..
KRISHNA	<i>Total</i>	10	40,900	8	14,650	..	..	2	26,250	..	..	..	..
	March	1	11,750	..	..	..	..	1	11,750	..	..	..	..
	June	1	14,500	..	..	..	..	1	14,500	..	..	..	..
	August	2	2,800	2	2,800	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	November	6	11,850	6	11,850	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
JAIN	December	1	35,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	35,000	..	..

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LOCAL SAINTS	Total	..	10	25,750	8	11,750	2	14,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
	February	..	1	1,250	1	1,250	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	March	..	1	9,000	..	..	1	9,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
	April	..	1	1,500	1	1,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	July	..	1	5,000	..	..	1	5,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
	August	..	2	3,000	2	3,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	November	..	3	5,450	3	5,450	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	December	..	1	550	1	550	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
SHITLA MATA	Total	..	5	21,650	3	6,650	2	15,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
	March	..	1	2,250	1	2,250	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	August	..	4	19,400	2	4,400	2	15,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
RAMDEV PIR	Total	..	8	17,750	7	7,750	..	..	1	10,000	..	..	..	..
	February	..	1	1,000	1	1,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	September	..	7	16,750	6	6,750	..	..	1	10,000	..	..	..	..
LOCAL HEROES	October	..	1	8,000	..	..	1	8,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
NAKLANG	Total	..	6	7,750	6	7,750	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
BHAGWAN	October	..	1	100	1	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	November	..	5	7,650	5	7,650	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
HANUMAN	November	..	3	5,500	3	5,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
MUSLIM PIRS	Total	..	3	4,100	3	4,100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Safar	..	1	1,250	1	1,250	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Shawwal	..	1	1,750	1	1,750	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Zilqaad	..	1	1,100	1	1,100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
LOCAL DEITIES	November	..	1	2,000	1	2,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
SERPENT-GOD	August	..	1	1,250	1	1,250	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Source :

Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part-VII-B, Fairs and Festivals, (Part-II, Tables), pp. 245-246.

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STATEMENT III.21
Fairs, their Occasion, Site, Time and Other Particulars

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SJ. No.	Taluka/Village Place where held	Name/Occasion of fair or festival	Date of fair/ festival	Estimated Congregation/ Number of Participants	Nearest Railway Station and distance in km. whether connected by bus services	Castes/ Communities Participating	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Palanpur Taluka							
1.	Chitrasani	Balaram fair	Every Monday of Shravan (August)	10,000-15,000 30,000-50,000 on the last Monday.	Railway Station Bus.	All communities.	Worship of Balaram Mahadev. A spot of beauty, and a site for picnic. It is said that years ago Mahadev at this place in the disguise of a Sadhu maintained the children of the people who had emigrated to Sind during a famine and hence Mahadev is known as Bal-Aram-Dada or Balaram. Fair organised by Mahadev Trust Committee and Chitrasani Panchayat. Attended by people from the whole State.
2.	Amirgadhi	Dungarpuri Bawa fair.	Phalgun Vad 8 (March)	8,000-10,000.	Railway Station Bus.	Adivasis, Garasia, Bhil, Koli, Rabari. Sadhus. A few non-Hindus.	In memory of Dungarpuri Bawa who took Samadhi in V. S. 1967. Attended by people from surrounding villages and Virampur.
3.	Parpada	Shitla Mata fair Shitla Saptami.	Shravan Vad 7 (August)	5,000-10,000	Chadotar, 5 Km. Bus.	Hindus, 5 to 10% non-Hindus.	Organised by the local leaders. Attended by people from surrounding 10 villages.
4.	Mota	Tokaria Mahadev fair.	Ashadh Vad 15 (July)	4,500	Chandisar, 1 1/2 km. Bus.	Rabari, Kanbi, Thakarda, Harijan, 100-150 Muslims	Temple of Tokaria Mahadev established in V.S. 1945. Attended by people from surrounding 10 villages.

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5.	Virampur (Kanpura)	Gor fair.	Chaitra Sud 15 (April)	2,000	Chitrasani 24 km. Bus.	Adivasis	Gauripujan by Adivasi women in gratefulness for good crops in the year. Organised by Adivasi leaders. Attended by people from surrounding 26 villages.
6.	Samdhi Motavas	Mahadev fair.	Kartik Sud 5. (November)	2,000	Chandisar 8 km.	Thakarda, Koli, Rabari.	Attended by people from surrounding villages.
7.	Balundra	Kedarnath fair.	Chaitra Sud 2 (April)	1,800	Iqbalgadh, 3 km.	Mostly Adivasis, few non-Hindus for trade	Temple of Kedarnath Mahadev organised by the leaders and trustees. Attended by people from the district and Rajasthan.
8.	Virampur	Dhuni fair	Chaitra Sud 11, (April)	1,500	Chitrasani 24 km. Bus.	Adivasis, Koli.	In memory of the Dhuni (fire) of Dungarpuri, a <i>sadhu</i> , who performed penance here, before taking <i>Samadhi</i> at Amirgadh. Organised by the <i>sadhus</i> and the <i>pujari</i> . Started 10 years ago. Limited to the village.
9.	Virampur	Mata fair	Kartik Sud 11 (November)	1,000	Chitrasani, 24 km. Bus.	Adivasi, Koli.	Temple of Mataji. Organised by the local leaders. Held for the last 20 years.
Danta Taluka							
10.	Ambaji	Navratri and Dassera	Ashvin Sud 1-10 (October)	150,000	Abu Road, 21 km. Bus.	All communities	The principal a Shakti Pitch of Gujarat, Ambaji is visited by a large number of pilgrims from all over Gujarat, Rajasthan, and other parts of India. Many persons in neighbouring districts have vows to visit it on every <i>Purnima</i> . The temple is now under Government management. The fair is organised by the Administrator of the temple and Gram Panchayat which levies Pilgrim Tax. Usually pilgrims also come on Shitla Satam, Janmashtami and Sud 11 to Vad 2 of every month.



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STATEMENT III. 21—Contd.

Sl. No.	Taluka/Village Place where held	Name/Occasion of fair or festival	Date of fair/ festival	Estimated Congregation/ Number of Participants	Nearest Railway Station and distance in km. whether connected by bus services	Castes/ Communities Participating	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Ambaji	Bhadarvi Punam	Bhadrapad Sud 15 (September)	24,332	Abu Road, 21 km. Bus.	all communities	Organised by the Administrator of the temple and Gram Panchayat which levies Pilgrim tax.
12.	Ambaji	Chaitri Punam	Chaitra Sud 15 (April)	21,272	Abu Road, 21 km. Bus.	"	"
13.	Ambaji	Kartiki Punam	Kartik Sud 15 (November)	11,510	Abu Road, 21 km. Bus.	"	"
14.	Pethapur	Shitla Satam	Shravan Vad 7 (August)	2,000-3,000	Taranga Hill, 32 km.	Brahman, Rajput, Jain, Thakarda, Adivasi, Harijan, 400-500 non-Hindus.	Temple of Shitla mata. Organised by Gram Panchayat which levies shop tax. Attended by people from Danta, Kheralu and Vadgam talukas.
Vadgam Taluka							
15.	Majadar	Ramdev Pir Fair	Bhadrapad Sud 11 (September)	10,000	Chhapi 1½ km. Bus.	Hindus, Harijans 5% non-Hindus.	Organised by Gram Panchayat. Attended by people from surrounding villages.
16.	Mokeshvar	Mukheshvar Mahadev fair	Bhadrapad Sud 11 (September)	8,000-10,000	Taranga Hill 16 km. Bus.	All communities.	Worship of Mukheshvar Mahadev on Sarasvati river said to have been installed by Pandavas during their exile. There is also a sacred <i>pipal</i> tree which is watered for the salvation of the dead. People from the whole district attend.
17.	Magarvada	Mani Bhadra Vir fair.	Ashvin Sud 5 (October)	8,000	Chhapi, 5 km.	Hindus, a few Muslims.	In memory of Manibhadra Vir who sacrificed his life for the protection of cows. Organised by Gram Panchayat. Attended by people from the whole district.

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18.	Rupal	Shitla Satam	Shravan Vad 7 (August)	5,000-10,000	Chhapi 11 km. Bus.	Hindus, Muslims.	Temple of Shitla Mata. Attended by people from neighbouring villages.
19.	Meta	Safar Urs.	Safar 29	1,000-1,500	Chhapi 8 km. Bus.	Muslims	Worship of pir whose <i>dargah</i> is 400 years old. organised by local Muslims. Attended by People from Bagu Village.
Dhanera Taluka							
(19-A)	Lakhanasar	Punam fair	Kartik Sud 15 (November)	3,000-4,000	Deesa 23 km. Bus.	Kanbi, Rabari, Bhil, Koli, Harijan, Jains.	Temple of Hanumanji. The fair is held in pursuance of a miracle. Attended by people from surrounding 10 villages. About 1,000, persons come on camels.
Deesa Taluka							
20.	Bhildi	Bhiladiyaji fair	Margashirsh Vad 10. (December)	30,000-40,000	Railway Station Bus	Jains	Well-known Jain temple of Bhiladiyaji Parshvanath. Organised by trustees. Attended by Jains from all over Gujarat.
21.	Godha	Ogad fair	Kartik Sud 2 (November)	3,000-4,000	Deesa 12 km. Bus.	All communities	Worship of footprints of <i>Oghadji</i> and <i>samadhis</i> of Rampura <i>mahants</i> . Organised by <i>mahant</i> of Rampura Math and <i>pujari</i> . Attended by people from neighbouring 15-20 villages. Fair started 5 years ago.
22.	Nesda (Juna)	Jhayani fair	Kartik Sud 1 (November)	1,000	Deesa 25 km.	Thakarda	New Year day fair introduced by the former <i>jagirdars</i> . Attended by people from 7-8 km. area.
Kankrej Taluka							
23.	Chembla	Dev-darbar fair	Kartik Sud 2. (November)	1,500	Patan 50 km. Bus.	All communities	Worship of Nakalank, Panchmukhi Mahadev, Bhairav and Hanuman. The shrines were established by Oghadji Maharaj, a Rabari saint who performed miracles and had wide following in the area. The footprints of departed <i>mahants</i> are also worshipped. These temples are 200 to 500 years old and had a <i>jagir</i> of 10 villages assigned to them. Limited to the taluka.



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STATEMENT III.21—Concl'd.

Sl. No.	Taluka/Village Place where held	Name/Occasion of fair or festival	Date of fair/ festival	Estimated Congregation/ Number of Participants	Nearest Railway Station and distance in km. whether connected by bus services	Castes/ Communit'es Participating	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24	Thali	Kevalpuri Maharaj fair	Kartik Sud 2 (November)	400-500	Kalipur 16 Km. Bus.	Hindus	Worship of Mahadev and <i>samadhi</i> of Keval Maharaj. Organised by the <i>pujari</i> . A minor congregation is held on Ashadh Vad 15 (Amas). Attended by people from neighbouring villages.
Vav Taluka							
25	Dhima	Navani fair	Jyeshtha Sud 15 (June)	14,500	Deesa 75 Km. Bus.	All communities	Worship of Dharanidharji and Lakshmi since V.S. 1474. An earlier temple of Varaha on the same site is believed to have been destroyed by a Sultan in V.S. 1353. Organised by Gram Panchayat which levies pilgrim tax at 0.25 p. per head. Attended by people from Kachchh and other districts and Rajasthan.
26	Dhima	Dhulety	Phalgun Sud 11 Vad 1 (March)	11,750	Deesa 75 Km. Bus.	All communities	Worship of Dharanidharji and Lakshmi on occasion of Holi. Organised by Gram Panchayat which levies pilgrim tax at 0.25 p. per head. Attended by people from Rajasthan and Kachchh and the surrounding districts.
Depdar Taluka							
27	Indarva (Juna)	Indreshwer Mahadev fair	Kartik Sud 15 (November)	5,000-6,000	Harij 75 Km.	Kanbi, Rabari, Koli, Thakarda. A few non-Hindus	Temple of Indreshwer Mahadev and <i>kund</i> of Gangamaiya, a bath in which is considered holy. Organised by Gram Panchayat. Attended by people from surrounding villages.

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28	Ogadpura	Ogadji Maharaj fair.	Ashadh Vad 15 (Amas) (July)	5,000	Harij 56 Km. Bus	Kanbi, Rabari, Koli, Thakarda. A few non-Hindus.	Samadhi of Oghadji Maharaj, under the management of the <i>mahant</i> of Dev Darbar (Kankrej Taluka) 10 km. away. The <i>mahant</i> pays four visits in a year to this place. Organised by the <i>pujari</i> . Attended by people from Deodar, Kankrej, Vav and Radhanpur talukas.
29	Lunsela	Ladharam Bhagat fair.	Shravan Sud 11 (August)	1,000	Harij 73 Km. Bus	Koli, Rabari, Thakarda	In memory of the <i>samadhi</i> of Ladharam Bhagat twelve years ago. Organised by the leaders of the village. Attended by people from the taluka.
Radhanpur Taluka							
30	Radhanpur	Hijrat Munshi Hafik Ali fair	Shawwal 25, 26	1,500-2,000	Railway station.	All communities	Urs of Hazrat Munshi Hafik Ali, a priest of Sunni Vohra community. Organised by the Vohra community Limited to Radhanpur.
31	Gotarka	Mahavali Pir fair.	Zilqaad 16	1,000-1,200	Harij 64 Km.	All communities	Dargah of Mahavali Pir. Organised by the <i>mujavar</i> . Attended by people from surrounding villages.
32	Gotarka	Swamiji fair	Margashirsh Sud 15 (December)	500-600	Harij 64 Km.	All communities	Worship of <i>gadi</i> and footprints of a local saint. Organised by the <i>pujari</i> .
Santalpur Taluka							
33	Aluwas	Tryambakeshwer Mahadev fair	Bhadrpad Vad 6 (September)	4,000	Harij 75 Km.	Rajput, Luhana, Ayer, Rabari, Koli, Bharwad, Muslims.	Temple of Mahadev established by Arjun while he was in exile. Attended by people from surrounding villages of 15 km. area.
34	Gadha	Goga (Nagdev) fair	Shravan Sud 15 (August)	1,000-1,500	Harij 75 km.	Rabari, Bharwad, Ayer.	Shrine of Goga Nagdev. Attended by people from surrounding villages of 15 km. area.
35	Vauva	Ravethi Mata fair, Dhara Atham.	Bhadrpad Sud 8 (September)	1,000	Harij 80 km.	Rajput, Ayer, Rabari, Koli.	Attended by people from surrounding villages of 10 km. area.

Source :

- (1) *District Census Handbook* 1971, Departmental Statistics and full count Census Tables, Part X-C-I, pp. 42-44.
- (2) *Census of India* 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part VII-B, *Fairs and Festivals*, (Part II Tables on fairs & festivals), pp. 55-65.

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STATEMENT III.14

Food of the People

Community/Group/ Castes 1	Rural Urban 2	Morning meal or breakfast 3	Afternoon meal 4	Evening meal 5
Hindus :				
Agriculturists, Artisans, Field workers, Labour- ers, etc.	Rural	<i>Rotla</i> or loaf of <i>bajri</i> or <i>Jowar</i> or <i>kodra</i> , <i>ghensh</i> , <i>chhas</i> or breakfast with tea.	<i>Rotla</i> or loaf of <i>bajri</i> or <i>jowar</i> or <i>kodra</i> with milk or curd or <i>chhas</i> or <i>thuli</i> , one vegetable, chillis, gur, etc.	<i>Bhakhari</i> , <i>rotla</i> , milk or <i>chhas</i> , <i>khichadi</i> , or <i>khichado</i> of <i>math</i> , <i>thuli</i> , or <i>dal</i> , etc.
	Urban	<i>Rotla</i> and tea or <i>dua</i> of <i>ghensh</i> .	<i>Rotli</i> , <i>bhat</i> or <i>khichadi</i> , <i>dal</i> or curry <i>ghensh</i> , vegetable, pulse, <i>chutney</i> .	<i>Bhakhari</i> , <i>khichadi</i> , milk, vegetable and pulse.
Wealthy persons.	Rural	Breakfast with tea or milk.	<i>Rotla</i> or loaf or <i>rotli</i> , vegetable, <i>dal</i> , <i>bhat</i> , or <i>khichadi</i> , <i>chutney</i> .	"
	Urban	Breakfast with tea or coffee or milk.	<i>Rotli</i> , <i>dal</i> or curry, <i>bhat</i> , vegetable pulse, <i>kachumbar</i> (salad), <i>chutney</i> , pickles, <i>papad</i> , curd or buttermilk.	<i>Bhakhari</i> or <i>puris</i> , milk, vegetable, <i>dal</i> or curry and <i>bhat</i> .
Rajputs/Thakardas/ Backward classes/Tribals/ Muslims.	Rural	Breakfast with tea.	<i>Rotla</i> or <i>rotli</i> , <i>bhat</i> with non-vegetarian items like eggs, chickens, hens, fish, and flesh of birds and animals. The tribal people generally take <i>thetha</i> prepared from wheat, <i>patiya</i> prepared from maizeflour and boiled gram-leaves. At the time of grain shortage they take <i>rab</i> prepared from <i>mahuda</i> flowers and flour.	<i>Rotla</i> , <i>khichadi</i> with one vegetable or non-vegetarian item. The tribal people generally take <i>thetha</i> prepared from wheat, <i>patiya</i> prepared from maizeflour and boiled gram-leaves. At the time of grain shortage they take <i>rab</i> prepared from <i>mahuda</i> flowers and flour.
	Urban	"	"	"

Source :

The Taluka Development Officers, Banaskantha District.

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PART IV—ECONOMIC ORGANISATION

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

Banaskantha is primarily an agricultural district. As many as 80 per cent of its working population is engaged in agriculture and allied activities against 65 per cent in the State. According to a preliminary crop report of 1973-74, it produced the largest quantity of foodgrains in the whole State. Similarly, the district stood first in the out-turn of *bajri*, accounting for 28.71 per cent of the State out-turn. However, the district continues to remain backward due to its geographical situation with the Aravalli ranges on the east and the dried desert areas of Rajasthan and Kutch on its northern and western borders. It can broadly be stated that except some parts of the eastern and central region, the entire district suffers due to lack of adequate rainfall and fertile soil. The north eastern part is hilly. The soil is black and grows mainly wheat, paddy and pulses. This portion of the district being nearer the hills gets comparatively more rain averaging about 100 cm. Going south-east, the river bed areas in Vadgam and Palanpur talukas have fertile soil where sugarcane, paddy, wheat and castor are predominantly cultivated. The tract comprising the central part of the district has *goradu* land and receives about 75 cm. of rain. On the western side, mainly comprising parts of Deodar, Vav, Radhanpur and Santalpur talukas, the soil is saline and the sub-soil water is brackish. The rainfall is meagre ranging between 20 and 30 cm. and the scope for irrigation is limited. The crops usually grown in these parts include *bajri*, *mag* and sesamum.

Nearly 61 per cent of the total area is under cultivation. Of the remaining, the major part consists of forests, grass lands and barren and uncultivable areas. The following statement gives detailed particulars of land resources available in the district decennially between 1950-51 and 1969-70.

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STATEMENT IV.1

Land Utilisation

(AREA IN '00 HECTARES)

Sl. No.	Classification of Area	1950-51*	Percentage	1959-60*	Percentage	1969-70**	Percentage
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Total reporting area for land utilisation purposes	.. 10,923	100.00	12,033	100.00	12,257	100.00
2.	Forests	.. 1,221	11.18	850	7.06	1,330	10.85
3.	Land put to non-agricultural uses	.. 254	2.32	347	2.88	276	2.25
4.	Barren and unculturable land	.. 1,780	16.30	1,199	9.97	600	4.90
5.	Permanent pastures and other grazing land	.. 699	6.40	1,124	9.34	720	5.88
6.	Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves not included in net area sown.	.. 325	2.98	339	2.82	48	0.39
7.	Culturable waste	.. 202	1.85	273	2.27	291	2.37
8.	Fallow lands other than current fallows	.. 389	3.56	258	2.15	124	1.01
9.	Current fallows	.. 174	1.59	808	6.71	1,392	11.36
10.	Net area sown	.. 5,879	53.82	6,835	56.80	7,476	60.99
11.	Total cropped area	.. 6,057	55.45	7,266	60.38	8,451	68.94
12.	Area sown more than once	.. 174	1.63	431	3.58	975	7.95

Source:

* Basic Agricultural Statistics, Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad, (1968), pp. 20-21.

** Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.

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As the statement indicates, the percentage of total cropped area to the total reporting area of the district has increased from 55 to 69 between 1950-51 and 1969-70. Double cropping which was almost negligible in the past is now being practised on a fairly wide scale, as can be seen from the percentage increase in the 'area sown more than once' from 1.63 to 7.95 during this period. The area sown more than once is almost double in Danta and Palanpur talukas where irrigation facilities are adequate and rainfall somewhat satisfactory. The area under permanent pastures and grazing lands is also high in this district compared to many adjoining districts. At the same time, the area under barren and unculturable land has come down from 16.30 per cent to 4.90 per cent, while the culturable waste has increased from 1.85 per cent to 2.37 per cent. The culturable waste land is mainly concentrated in Deodar, Palanpur, Danta, Deesa and Tharad talukas, while the uncultivable waste land is chiefly found in Santalpur, Vav and Kankrej talukas.

IRRIGATION

The district had an irrigated area of 1.26 lakh hectares in 1969-70 which constituted about 16.92 per cent of its net cropped area. This compares favourably with the State figure which was 13 per cent during the same period. The main rivers flowing in the district are the Banas, the Sipu or Sukli, the Sevalan, the Balaram, the Saraswati, the Arjuni, the Joyan, the Kalari, the Umardasi, etc. But except the Banas and its tributaries most of the other rivers are dry for a major part of the year. In summer, even the Banas and its tributaries are emaciated and appear like threads of water¹. The water of the river Banas is being utilised by constructing a major dam across the river near village Dantiwada in Dhanera taluka. Similarly a dam on the river Sipu in the same taluka is proposed to be constructed by the end of the year 1978. These two dams when fully commissioned, will help in providing the much needed irrigation to the district. As it is, the district has still to go a long way in providing adequate irrigational facilities to its standing crops. The wells which still constitute a major source of irrigation have limited scope because of the brackish sub-soil water in several talukas especially Vav, Santalpur, Radhanpur and Deesa. In fact, sweet

1. DIKSHIT K. R., *Geography of Gujarat*, (1970), p. 213.



sub-soil water is difficult to be found in the district except in parts of Danta, Vadgam and Palanpur talukas which therefore happen to be the most fertile areas of the district.

Before Independence, there were practically no irrigation facilities in the district except six small tanks and the Scott canal in the Radhanpur area. After Independence and after the introduction of the Five Year Plans, various schemes have been implemented for augmenting and conserving the scarce water resources of the district.

The average rainfall is 40 mm. only. The talukas like Vav, Tharad, Santalpur, Radhanpur and Deodar are drought-prone areas. As a result, the agriculture has to depend on irrigation. The main problem of the district is scarcity of water coupled with salinity of water, and severity of wind action. No major attempt to harness the natural resources of the monsoon flow had been made before Independence. The Dantiwada Reservoir Project on the river Banas is the only major irrigation project. It was planned and put into execution to ease the scarcity problem faced by the district.

The construction of another dam on the river Sipu at village Atal in Dhanera taluka is under consideration. It is estimated to cost Rs. 550 lakhs.¹

The Dantiwada Reservoir Project

The first attempt at a systematic investigation for the development of the Banas region was made in 1925 A.D. After merger of the States greater attention was paid towards this direction and the present project is the outcome of the same.

The construction of the dam on the river Banas near Dantiwada (Dhanera taluka) about 25 km. away from Palanpur was started in 1959. The project provides for irrigation facilities to farmers in the Palanpur, Deesa, Kankrej and Dhanera talukas of the district. The Dantiwada dam is a small step in the direction of preventing damage from floods in the Banas and utilizing the potential of the river for irrigation. The construction of the dam was completed in 1966 while the erection of spillway gates was completed in 1969. The masonry dam is 327 metres long; its height

1. *Perspective plan of Gujarat (1974-1984)*, Vol. II, Government of Gujarat (1972), p. 158.



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is 41 metres from the river bed while the base width at maximum height is 221 metres. Its width at the top is 5×9 metres.

The reservoir is formed by masonry dam with a central gated spillway built on granite foundation and earthen embankments on both the flanks. Its storage capacity is 16,400 m.cft. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1,087.94 lakhs. It has irrigation potential of 1,10,000 acres (70,000 in this district and 40,000 in Mahesana district) or 44,553 hectares. The project has proved helpful in achieving additional food production of 64,500 tonnes valued at Rs. 254 lakhs. The area actually irrigated yearwise, since the construction of the dam is as under :

Year		Irrigation (Hectares)
1965—66	..	8,360
1966—67	..	6,503
1967—68	..	17,532
1968—69	..	17,735
1969—70	..	4,802
1970—71	..	19,397
1971—72	..	13,024
1972—73	..	9,290
1973—74	..	20,291

Source:

1. Revised Scarcity Master-Plan of Banaskantha District, 1972-73, p. 23.
2. Irrigation Administration Report, Part I, 1964-65 (1968), pp. 117-124.

Minor Irrigation Schemes

In the past, several minor irrigation tanks were constructed by the states of Palanpur and Danta. Before 1947, the number of such tanks was 8, viz., (1) Gangasagar Tank (2) Hadad Tank (3) Mankan-champa Tank (4) Jaswantsagar Tank (5) Solsanda Tank (6) Sandhosi Tank (7) Umbri Tank (8) Mankdi Tank. The irrigation potential of these tanks was about 900 hectares. After Independence, 21 minor irrigation works have been completed in this district. Thus at present, there are 29 minor irrigation schemes including 6 under Drought Prone Area Programme and 4 under Desert Development Scheme as detailed below :



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STATEMENT IV.2
Minor Irrigation Schemes

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Location Village/taluka	Year of starting	Year of completion	Size in metres			Cost of const. Rs. in lakhs	Storage capacity in Mcft.	Total estimated irrigation potential in Hct.
					Length	Maxi. ht.	Top width			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Gangasagar M. I. Tank	Iqbalgadh/Palanpur	During State regime	..	210	13.00	3.00	2.00	65.00	340
2.	Hadad M. I. Tank	Hadad/Danta	N. A.	N. A.	..	..	..	1.55	7.40	40
3.	Umbri M. I. Tank	Umbri/Kankrej	..	..	250	20.00	2.50	3.37	53.66	208
4.	Mankdi M. I. Tank	Mankdi/Danta	..	..	330	11.00	3.00	0.76	14.00	40
5.	Mankan Champa Tank	Mankanchampa/Danta	Constructed	..	..	..	..	0.16	N. A.	40
6.	Jaswant Sagar M. I. Tank	Navavas/Danta	During State regime	..	..	..	..	0.15	..	40
7.	Solsanda M. I. Tank	Solsanda/Danta	..	..	..	..	..	0.35	..	60
8.	Sandhosi M. I. Tank	Sandhosi/Danta	..	..	..	..	..	1.45	4.39	60
9.	Santalpur M. I. Tank	Santalpur/Santalpur	1968	1970	1500	4.75	3.00	1.90	10.11	78
10.	Jherda M. I. Tank	Jherda/Deesa	..	..	1300	2.60	3.00	0.90	8.35	56
11.	Balundra M. I. Tank	Balundra/Palanpur	N. A.	N. A.	390	16.00	3.50	5.55	71.30	312
12.	Kalimati M. I. Tank	Kalimati/Palanpur	..	1973	270	18.50	3.50	2.01	37.95	100
13.	Paniyari M. I. Tank	Mumanvas/Vadgam	1966	1973	330	16.00	3.50	5.37	33.15	222
14.	Pavthinala M. I. Tank	Rinchhadi/Danta	1967	1969	..	..	..	2.24	10.62	92
15.	Vanjara M. I. Tank	Danta/Danta	1966	1973	180	15.00	3.50	3.48	25.56	144
16.	Miravas M. I. Tank	Minravas/Danta	..	..	270	7.50	3.00	0.84	15.52	62
17.	Roza Perco. Tank	Roza/Santalpur	..	..	900	5.00	3.00	0.47	5.03	..
18.	Jadia Perco. Tank	Jadia/Dhanera	..	..	..	..	..	0.97	13.44	..
19.	Khara M. I. Tank	Khara/Palanpur	..	..	280	12.00	3.75	3.66	26.31	142

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Works under Drought Prone Area Programme

1. Reclamation scheme At Suigam.	Suigam/Vav	1971-72	1971-72	1000	5.27	2.00	1.43	...	320 area benefited in hct.
2. Chhansara Adbund	Chhansara/Santalpur	„	1972-73	1815	5.40	3.00	1.58	...	60 „
3. Kamalpur Adbund	Kamalpur/Radhanpur	„	„	1380	2.27	2.00	0.39	...	40 „
4. Moti-Pipli-Adbund	Motipipli/Radhanpur	„	„	480	2.42	2.00	0.18	...	20 „
5. Dehgam Adbund	Dehgam/Radhanpur	1972-73	„	830	1.90	2.00	0.10	..	20 „
6. Gosan Perco. Tank	Gosan/Deodar	„	„	818	3.60	3.00	0.14	2.64	..

Works under Desert Development Scheme

1. Bamnoli-Adbund	Bamnoli/Santalpur	1972	1972	2800	2.45	2.00	0.62	..	160
2. Dabhi Adbund	Dabhi/Santalpur	1972	1972	1950	4.00	2.50	0.79	..	260
3. Jamvada Adbund	Jamvada/Santalpur	1971	1972	660	6.50	3.00	1.19	..	80
4. Daldi Adbund	Daldi/Santalpur	1972	1973	800	5.00	2.50	0.55	..	43

N. A.=Not Available.

Source :

Revised Scarcity Master-Plan of Banaskantha District 1972-73, pp. 30-33.



In addition to the minor irrigation tanks, 73 productive tube-wells were completed during the First Five Year Plan, creating irrigation potential of 5,908 hectares. During the Second Five Year Plan, irrigation tanks of Kalimati and Balundra were completed. During the Third Five Year Plan, 66 tube-wells were completed by March 1973. Under the Fourth Five Year Plan, 28 tube-wells have been completed. The remaining tube-wells are in progress. Thus on completion of the tube-wells as above, additional irrigation potential of 14,002 hectares will be created. In addition, 14 tube-wells under the Desert Development Programme, creating irrigation potential of 1,133 hectares are under progress; 46 tube-wells to be drilled under the Drought Prone Area Programme are also taken up.

In addition to the minor irrigation tanks and tube-wells, irrigation is provided through 36,341 surface wells in an area of 84,984 hectares.

Drought Prone Area Programme

The Drought Prone Area Programme has been introduced in such areas which are chronically affected by drought conditions. In this district, it is introduced in six talukas, viz., Radhanpur, Santalpur, Vav, Tharad, Deodar and Dhanera. Under this programme, soil conservation works are taken up to conserve moisture and reduce erosion of fertile layer of the soil. In 1972-73, the scheme covered an area of 2,539 hectares at a cost Rs. 5 lakhs. About 28 minor irrigation schemes are selected for execution under this programme. Of these, 6 schemes are by now completed.

Sources of Water Supply

Of the total irrigated area in 1969-70, about 95 per cent was by wells and only 5 per cent by other sources. Since then, however considerable area has been brought under irrigation by canals from the Dantiwada project. According to the latest available provisional statistics, (1972-73) this project alone accounted for about 9,308 hectares of irrigated area in the district. There is a considerable variation in percentage of net area irrigated in

Source :

- (1) Revised Scarcity Master-Plan of Banaskantha District, 1972-73, pp. 23-34.
- (2) *Pragatine Panthe*, Banaskantha District (1968), pp. 6-8.



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different talukas of the district depending on the availability of water resources. While the area irrigated in Vav and Santalpur talukas was the lowest, that in Palanpur and Deesa taluka was the highest. The following are the figures of area irrigated by different sources of water supply in the district during 1961-62 and 1969-70:

STATEMENT IV.3
Irrigated Area

(AREA IN '00 HECTARES)

Source	1961-62*	1969-70†
Government Canals	..	59
Tanks	2	7
Wells	820	1,199
Other Sources	..	..
Total	822	1,265

Source :

* *Basic Agricultural Statistics*, Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad, (1968), p. 38.

† Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.

Area Irrigated by Sources

It will appear from the above statement that in 1969-70 well irrigation was the most important source of irrigation. The Government canals and tanks provided irrigation to about 5 per cent of the area under irrigation. As stated earlier, larger areas have been brought under canal irrigation since the completion of the Dantiwada Irrigation Project. Canal irrigation takes place mostly by gravitational flow, while in the case of well, *kos* and other water lifting devices are manually operated with the aid of bullocks. Increasing use of oil and electric power is being made by cultivators in the district for lifting and pumping water from the well for irrigation purposes. These devices are proving more economical and easy to handle in the long run, though the initial capital expenditure involved in the purchase of oil-engine, electric motor and pump is quite large.

Irrigation facilities available during 1969-70 are given in the following statement for each of the talukas:



STATEMENT IV.4
Sources of Water Supply, 1969-70

(IN NUMBER)								
Taluka	Government canals	Wells used for irrigation purpose only				Tanks used for irrigation purpose	Oil engines and elec- tric motors	
		Tube- wells	Govern- ment Masonry	Private				
				Masonry	Non- Masonry			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
District Total	..	4	158	..	36,609	6,918	16	12,156
Danta	..	..	..	..	1,445	813	9	219
Deesa	..	1	31	..	5,373	17	..	1,748
Deodar	..	..	49	..	3,012	..	..	1,329
Dhanera	..	1	9	..	3,194	175	..	1,191
Kankrej	..	..	31	..	3,445	2,560	..	2,896
Palanpur	..	2	3	..	8,484	1,361	7	2 540
Radhanpur	..	..	5	..	925	235	..	156
Santalpur	..	..	6	..	154	..	..	8
Tharad	..	..	20	..	4,354	239	..	747
Vav	..	..	2	..	210	205	..	31
Vadgam	..	..	2	..	6,013	1,313	..	1,291

Source : Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

The statement indicates that out of 158 tube--wells, Deodar has the highest number (49), followed by Deesa (31), Kankrej (31), and Tharad (20). Dhanera, Santalpur and Radhanpur have 9, 6 and 5 respectively. Palanpur has three and Vav and Vadgam have two each. The number of Government canals is only four of which two are in Palanpur, one is in Deesa and one is in Dhanera. In the group of masonry wells, Palanpur taluka has the highest number of wells (8,484), followed by Vadgam (6,013), Deesa (5,373), Tharad (4,354). Kankrej (3,445), Dhanera (3,194) and Deodar (3,012). Santalpur has the lowest number of wells. This is due to the fact that the sub-soil water is brackish. In the case of non-masonry wells, nine talukas have got this facility. The distribution is as follows : Kankrej (2,560) Palanpur (1,361), Vadgam (1,313), Danta (813), Tharad (239) Radhanpur (235), Vav (205), Dhanera (175) and Deesa (17). The district has only 16 tanks of which nine are situated in



Danta and seven in Palanpur. As far as oil engines and electric motors are concerned, out of the total of 12,156, Kankrej claims the highest number (2,896) followed by Palanpur (2,540) and Deesa (1,748). Santalpur again stands at the bottom in the list.

Area Irrigated

The non-food or cash crops which had only a negligible irrigated area under them before a decade have gradually begun to cover larger areas. In 1969-70, of the total irrigated area, 23 per cent was occupied by the non-food crops and the remainder, about 77 per cent by the food crops. There has been a decline in cultivation of irrigated non-food crops. The following statement gives comparative figures of irrigated areas of food crops and non-food crops in 1961-62 and 1969-70.

STATEMENT IV.5 Area under Irrigated Crops

(AREA IN '00 HECTARES)

Crops	1961-62*	1969-70†
<i>Total Food crops</i>	533	995
<i>Rice</i>	..	3
<i>Wheat</i>	399	487
<i>Bajri</i>	2	27
<i>Maize</i>	11	38
<i>Jowar</i>	13	40
<i>Total Cereals</i>	442	637
<i>Gram</i>	26	..
<i>Tur</i>	..	..
<i>Total Pulses</i>	26	1
<i>Total food grains</i>	468	638
<i>Sugarcane</i>	17	14
<i>Chillies</i>	..	5
<i>Banana</i>	..	..
<i>Other Fruits</i>	..	..
<i>Total Fruits</i>	..	..
<i>Total Vegetables</i>	..	14
<i>Other Food crops</i>	48	324
<i>Total non-Food crops</i>	289	270
<i>Cotton</i>	9	28
<i>Tobacco</i>	—	2
<i>Groundnut</i>	21	..
<i>Fodder crops</i>	..	39
<i>Other non-food crops</i>	259	201
<i>Total area under Irrigated Crops:</i>	822	1,265

Source :

- 1.* *Basic Agricultural Statistics*, Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad, (1968) Pp. 46-49.
- † *Irrigation in Gujarat*, Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Gujarat, Ahmadabad (1974) Pp. 81-84.
2. Director of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.



SOILS

The soils of this district can be classified into three categories, viz., alluvial sandy soils, sandy loams (*goradu*) and black soils (hilly soils).

The alluvial soils are found in the western parts of the district beyond the rivers Sipu and Banas in the talukas of Tharad, Vav, Deodar, Santalpur, Radhanpur and western parts of Dhanera, Deesa and Kankrej. They are deep sandy with very little organic content. The sand is coarse at places and does not retain moisture. These soils contain yellowish brown and structureless sands. This tract receives very low rainfall. Heavy downpour as well as long breaks of rainfall are considered harmful to the crops. These soils are also basically saline and can yield crops only under optimum rainfall conditions. The sub-soil water is highly saline.

The soils of the central zone, comprising the eastern parts of Dhanera, Deesa and Kankrej and southern parts of Palanpur and Vadgam are of sandy loam type, popularly known as *goradu*. These are yellowish to yellow brown in colour, quite deep and produce excellent crops, especially tuber crops.

The hilly soils of the eastern zone, comprising the Danta taluka, on the border of Gujarat and Rajasthan and the northern part of Palanpur are black. These areas are extremely susceptible to erosion and are very poor in soil contents. They occupy a very small area in the district.

SOIL EROSION

The soils in this district being loose in texture are subjected to heavy erosion as a result of fast disappearance of vegetational cover. Erosion is accelerated owing to heavy unchecked grazing by cattle. The tract is also constantly threatened by the fast encroachment of the Rajasthan desert.

The Dantiwada River Valley Project (Forest Division)

The Dantiwada River Valley Project was started in 1963, with the main purpose of arresting the silt flow coming through various tributaries by taking afforestation measures and thus prolonging the life of the Dantiwada dam.



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The work of contour bunding was taken up in the initial stages. After four years the work of terracing was also initiated along with contour bunding. During 1971-72, work of soil conservation on Government land and uncultivated land was started. A total area of nearly 6,070 hectares was contour banded under this scheme till 1973. Similarly, about 324 hectares were covered by terracing and 150 hectares by nala-plugging. These areas were mostly included in the Palanpur, Danta and Dhanera talukas.

SOIL CONSERVATION

Water and wind are very active forces in erosion of land. Denudation of forest areas due to ruthless cutting and grazing also leads to soil erosion. Systematic execution of soil conservation schemes to arrest soil erosion is of vital importance for increased agricultural production. Various schemes of soil conservation including contour bunding, terracing, nala-plugging and field channel work in command areas have been undertaken in the district.

The soil conservation activities are undertaken by the Department of Agriculture with a view to preserving moisture and fertility of the land. The Divisional Soil Conservation Officer executes the works through Sub-Divisional Soil Conservation Officers. The Divisional Soil Conservation Officer is responsible for the administration and execution of the programme of soil conservation work carried out by the sub-division under his charge. He acts as a Secretary of the District Land Improvement Board and arranges to bring all bunding schemes under the purview of the Bombay Land Improvement Schemes Act, 1942. He accords technical sanction to the plans and estimates for new bunding work costing more than Rs. 10,000 and upto Rs. 20,000.

The following are the main objects of this scheme :

1. Controlling erosion of fertile layer of the soil.
2. Conserving moisture in the soil.
3. Increasing sub-soil water level.
4. Increasing irrigation potential.
5. Increasing fertility of the soil.
6. Reducing the rate of siltation and thereby increasing the storage capacity of reservoirs constructed in the down-stream side.
7. Providing employment to labourers.



The soil conservation works help to increase agricultural production. The amount spent on such works is recovered from the owner of the land by instalments after deducting subsidy as per Government orders in force. The programme has on the whole received fairly good co-operation from the local cultivators. There are two sub-divisions, viz., Palanpur and Deesa in the district. The Sub-Divisional Soil Conservation Officer at Palanpur executes the work in the catchment area of Dantiwada dam while the Sub-Divisional Soil Conservation Officer at Deesa executes the work in the fields of private cultivators.

A total of 1.70 lakh acres (68,850 hectares) of land was covered under soil conservation works in the district, between 1961 and 1973 at a total cost of Rs. 124.31 lakhs.

CROPPING PATTERN

A major part of the district grows food crops which are less remunerative. The main Kharif crops in the district are *bajri*, *jowar*, *mag*, *math*, *tal*, rapeseed etc. Wheat is the main Rabi crop. In eastern parts of the district comprising Vadgam and Danta talukas, crops like paddy, sugarcane, tobacco, vegetables, wheat, barley, mustard, gram, Isabgul, rapeseed, cumin, etc., are grown due to fairly good irrigation facilities. In the western parts of the district, irrigation facilities are meagre. The main crop cultivated in these parts is *bajri*. The taluka of Radhanpur and Santalpur constitute the chief wheat growing area. In good rainy season, potatoes are grown mainly in river beds.



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The following statement shows the area under principal crops for the decennial period 1952-53, 1962-63 and 1972-73:

STATEMENT IV.6

Area under Principal Crops

(IN '00 HECTARES)

Sl. No.	Crops	1952--53*	1962--63*	1972--73†
1.	Rice	12	31	8
2.	Jowar	943	1,190	927
3.	Bajri	3,554	2,899	4,056
4.	Maize	58	92	83
5.	Wheat	225	423	532
6.	Other Cereals	294	100	48
	Total Cereals	5,086	4,735	5,654
7.	Gram	11	66	12
8.	Tur	2	31	20
9.	Other Pulses	605	667	438
	Total Pulses	618	764	470
	Total Food Grains	5,704	5,499	6,124
10.	Sugarcane	6	11	12
11.	Chillies.	7	8	8
12.	Potatoes	4	14	5
13.	Groundnut	..	86	13
14.	Sesamun	147	100	100
15.	Castor	51	178	137
	Total Oilseeds	198	364	250
16.	Cotton	1	163	110
17.	Tobacco	2	..	..

Source:

* *Statistics of Area, Production and Yield per Acre of Principal crops in Gujarat State for the period 1949--50 to 1963--64*, Directorate of Agriculture, Ahmadabad, (1965), pp. 26-168.

† Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.

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The statement shows that the acreage under food grains has increased during the over-all period of two decades. In respect of individual crops, wheat and *bajri* have registered a significant increase. In respect of other crops area under sugarcane has doubled between 1952-53 and 1972-73. The area under *jowar* has declined during the same period. Similar is the case with pulses. There has been a decrease in the cultivation of non-food crops, mainly cotton.

OUT-TURN OF CROPS

The following statement shows the out-turn of principal crops in the district in 1952-53, 1962-63 and 1972-73;

STATEMENT IV.7 Out-turn of Principal Crops

		(In '00 Tonnes)		
Crops.		1952--53*	1962--63*	1972--73†
Rice		4	26	2
<i>Jowar</i>	..	253	548	274
<i>Bajri</i>	..	625	712	1943
Maize	..	18	89	82
Wheat	..	271	381	818
Other Cereals	..	140	38	26
<i>Total Cereals</i>	..	1,311	1,794	3,145
Gram	..	4	31	8
<i>Tur</i>	..	1	11	7
Other Pulses	..	136	171	76
<i>Total Pulses</i>	..	141	213	91
<i>Total Food grains</i>	..	1,452	2,007	3,236
Sugarcane	..	31	46	54
Chillies	..	1	4	5
Potatoes	..	69	468	248
Groundnut	..	...	28	4
Sesamum	..	32	29	20
Castor	..	19	58	38
<i>Total Oilseeds</i>	..	51	115	62
Cotton	..	1	147	96
Tobacco	..	1	1	...

Source :

1. Out-turn of sugarcane is recorded in terms of 00' tonnes of *gur*.
 2. Out-turn of cotton is recorded in terms of bales of 180 kg, each.
- * *Statistics of Area, Production and Yield per Acre of Principal crops in Gujarat State for the period 1949-50 to 1963-64*, Directorate of Agriculture, Ahmadabad (1965), pp. 27--169.
- † Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.



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The foodgrains production as a whole has doubled between 1952-53 and 1972-73. The principal crops which have registered a noteworthy increase in their out-turn are *bajri*, wheat and maize. However, the out-turn of other cereals records considerable fall during the last two decades. The out-turn of pulses has also declined, while that of sugarcane has increased from 3,100 tonnes in 1952-53 to 5,400 tonnes in 1972-73. The out-turn of chillies has increased five times. Oilseeds, especially groundnut and sesamum, have registered a fall in production.

The yield per hectare of the principal crops during 1973-74 is shown in the following statement:

STATEMENT IV.8
Yield per Hectare, 1973-74

Name of crop	Figures in kg.
<i>Bajri</i> ..	901
Maize ..	494
<i>Kodra</i> ..	..
Wheat ..	555
<i>Jowar Kharif</i> ..	596
<i>Jowar Rabi</i> ..	690
Other Cereals ..	556
<i>Total Cereals</i> ..	947
<i>Tur</i> ..	385
Other Pulses ..	175
<i>Total Pulses</i> ..	204
<i>Total Food grains</i> ..	890
Sugarcane ..	3,900
Chillies ..	600
Groundnut ..	1,154
Sesamum ..	447
<i>Total Oil seeds</i> ..	546
Cotton ..	163
Tobacco ..	..

Source : Based on the final forecast data, issued by the Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad,

B—469—18



The Soil Testing Laboratory, Deesa

The soil testing laboratory at Deesa was started in the year 1967-68, for testing the suitability of the soil for higher agricultural production. Soil samples are analysed in the laboratory, from the fertility point of view which include : (1) percentage of organic carbon, (2) electrical conductivity, (3) available phosphoric acid, (4) available potash, (5) soil texture, (6) lime reserve and (7) gypsum requirement.

After completion of the analysis, additional organic and chemical fertilizers are recommended to the cultivators for a particular improved variety of the crop as per requirements of the individual cultivator.

MODE OF CULTIVATION OF PRINCIPAL CROPS

Cereals

Bajri (*Pennisetum typhoideum*)—Among food crops, *bajri* occupies the place of prime importance. It is the principal food crop of the people in this district. In fact, Banaskantha is the largest producer of *bajri* in the whole of Gujarat. In 1972-73, it produced about 19 per cent of the total production of *bajri* in the State. It is a Kharif crop grown in almost all talukas in all types of soils and climatic conditions and also in summer season except in Vav and Santalpur, where the water is saline and irrigation facilities are inadequate. As compared to area occupied by *bajri* its out-turn has increased considerably during recent years as a result of intensive cultivation. It was grown in 664,400 acres (268,900 hectares) in 1950-51 and has since increased to 405,600 hectares (1972-73). Its out turn during this period has gone up from 44,000 to 194,300 tonnes. *Bajri* was once the staple food of all including the wealthier classes, who were especially fond of *rotla* prepared from *bajri* with butter milk (*chhas*), fresh butter or milk. *Bajri* continues to be popular with the masses.

For cultivation of Kharif *bajri* the soil is ploughed in May and June. The sowing starts after the first good rain. The crop is generally not watered. The quantity of seed required for sowing is usually 3 to 4 kg. per acre. Two interculturings are done at an interval of one month after sowing. Timely rainfall in August



favours the growth of the crop and yields a good harvest. Flowering and grain formation generally take place in early September and harvesting starts in the second week of October. The harvested crop is kept lying in the field for few days. Heads of grain are then removed and carted to the threshing floor where the crop is threshed under bullock's feet. Cultivators usually keep a major part of the produce for their own use and for seed purposes and sell the remainder in open market. Special seed is required for hybrid *bajri* every year. Kanjri, a local variety, and Hybrid—3 are grown in the district.

During recent years the out-turn of *bajri* is comparatively less due to bad season. However, as a result of improved dry farming methods adopted recently the yield per hectare of hybrid *bajri* has increased considerably over the last few years.

Jowar (*Andropogon sorghum*)—Jowar is another important cereal crop grown all over the district. It is mainly a Kharif crop though it is grown also in Rabi season. The sowing is done usually in July after the monsoon sets in. The quantity of seed required for sowing is about 5 kg. per acre when grown alone. It was grown in 270,800 acres (109,600 hectares) in 1950-51. In 1972-73, it came down to 92,700 hectares, due to preference given to cultivation of cotton which has increased. The variety of *jowar* that is chiefly grown is *Malvan*, C-10-2 and C.S.H-1. Usually one interculturing after a month of the sowing is required. Flowering and grain formation start in the beginning of September and harvesting takes place generally from the second week of October and may sometimes continue till November. The crop is cut by sickle and exposed to sun light for three days. The earheads are then cut and carried to the threshing floor. Threshing starts in November and continues till December end.

Wheat (*Triticum Spp.*)—Wheat is an important cereal crop grown in Rabi season. Irrigated wheat is grown in all the talukas except in Vav, Radhanpur and Santalpur where the water is saline and irrigation facilities are inadequate. Dry wheat is mostly grown in Radhanpur and Santalpur talukas. Banaskantha produced, in 1972-73, about 15 per cent of the irrigated wheat in the State. Wheat was grown in 40,600 acres (16,400 hectares) in 1950-51, which increased to 109,700 acres (44,400 hectares) in 1967-68. Its production during this period increased from 13,600 tonnes to



62,800 tonnes. In 1972-73, it covered an area of 53,200 hectares and its out-turn was 81,800 tonnes. These figures show that the production of wheat has increased considerably during recent years due to improved techniques of production. For cultivation of wheat, land is prepared in July or August. Farm manure at the rate of about 25 cartloads per acre is then spread in the fields. Sowing starts usually after *Dassera* in the third week of October and is continued till the first week of November. Sowing is done by local *dantal* of about 22 cm. in size. The variety of wheat that is chiefly grown is *vajia*. The improved varieties introduced are Kalyan Sona, Sonalika, N. P. 824, Arnej-206, Junagadh-1-7 etc. The quantity of seed required for sowing is usually 40 kg. per acre. Generally no interculturings are given when the crop is an irrigated one. The irrigated crop is given top-dressing at the rate of about 15 kg. of nitrogen (in the form of manure mixture) per acre after one month of sowing in one doze. Ears come in January. Harvesting starts in February and continues till March. The harvested crop is then dried, carried to the threshing yard and pounded under the feet of bullocks.

Sugarcane (Saccharum Officinarum)—Sugarcane is mainly grown in Vadgam taluka in natural *saran* or unirrigated area.

Sugarcane is a twelve month crop and requires an ample supply of water. It is planted usually in the month of January or February. About 15,000 to 20,000 sugarcane sets per acre are required for sowing. Large quantity of farm yard manure is applied. The crop requires intensive irrigation. Harvesting starts from January of the next year and continues till March. Crushing, which starts immediately thereafter, is done with iron cane crushers and in many cases by crushers run by power. In 1972-73, sugarcane covered an area of 1,200 hectares yielding an outturn to 5,400 tonnes.

Cotton—Cotton is an important cash crop grown in Radhanpur, Santalpur, Kankrej, Deodar, Danta, and Palanpur talukas in the district. While Hybrid cotton-4, Gujarat-67 and Digvijay cotton are grown in Danta taluka, Cotton v-797 is grown in Santalpur, Radhanpur, Kankrej and Deodar talukas. Before sowing, the soil is well worked with a plough. About 20 to 25 cartloads of farm yard manure per acre are required for manuring. Sowing starts in July with a spacing of 45 to 90 cm. The variety of cotton that is chiefly grown is Kalyan, V-797, Hybrid-4, and Vagad.



The out-turn of cotton has improved both quantitatively and qualitatively in recent years. Cotton cultivated in the past was of a poor quality. The area under cotton increased from 700 hectares to 11,000 hectares between 1950-51 and 1972-73. Its production during these years increased from 400 bales to 9,600 bales. These figures explain the growing importance of cotton in the district. Several attempts have been made to improve the cultivation methods of cotton. Hybrid-4, which gives better returns to the farmers, has been made popular. It requires large doses of fertilizers and irrigation. Normally the sowing of cotton seeds starts in June and lasts till the middle of July. The seed rate is 2.5 kg. per hectare. Interculturing is done 5 to 6 times. The crop usually begins to flower by the end of November and picking of cotton seeds starts in February and lasts till April.

PULSES

The main pulse crops grown in the district are *mag* or green gram, *math* (kidney bean) and gram. The district is known for the cultivation of *mag* which is chiefly grown in Tharad and Vav talukas. It is a Kharif crop and generally sown along with *bajri* and *jowar*. It is not grown as a main crop because heavy rains in September disturb its growth. It is usually harvested after the principal Kharif crop is taken from the field. The yield is ordinarily about 35 kg. per acre. Its leaves and stalks are much relished by cattle. *Mag* like other pulses, can be eaten green as a vegetable and when ripened consumed whole or spilt. The area under this crop was 14,900 hectares and its out-turn 2,400 tonnes in 1969-70.

Gram and *math* are usually sown as mixed crops. *Math* (kidney bean) is a Kharif crop and is grown alongwith *jowar* in light soils. It is sown at a distance of about 45 cm. The quantity of seed required is about 4 kg. per acre and the yield is about 90 to 100 kg. per acre when grown alone.

Tur is mainly sown in Danta and part of Palanpur taluka as a mixed crop with maize. It was grown in 700 acres (300 hectares) in 1950-51 which increased to 4,200 acres (1,700 hectares) in 1967-68. Its out-turn during this period rose from 100 to 500 tonnes. In 1972-73 *tur* covered an area of 2,000 hectares and its out-turn was 700 tonnes.



Gram is also sown as a mixed crop. It was cultivated in 4,200 acres (1,700 hectares) in 1950-51, which increased to 3,700 acres (1,500 hectares) in 1967-68. Its out-turn during this period rose from 600 to 900 tonnes. In 1972-73, gram covered an area of 1,200 hectares which yielded 800 tonnes.

The area under total pulses has increased from 120,300 acres (48,700 hectares) in 1950-51 to 124,000 acres (50,200 hectares) in 1967-68. Its production during this period increased from 11,200 to 11,600 tonnes. In 1972-73 pulses covered an area of 8,300 hectares with an out-turn of 8,200 tonnes. At present Banaskantha ranks among the largest producer of pulses in the whole of Gujarat.

OILSEEDS

The main oilseeds grown in the district are sesamum and groundnut.

Til or Tal (Sesamum)

Til is grown as a Kharif crop in the district. It is generally grown to increase the fertility of the soil after cultivation of soil-exhausting crops like *jowar*, etc. No manuring for this crop is generally required as the crop itself is considered to be fertility recuperating. About 500 to 700 grams of *til* per acre are required for sowing. A distance of about 45 cm. is kept between the rows. The plants after they grow yellow and cast off leaves are picked and stocked in the threshing yard. After they become dry they are spread on a cloth, winnowed and cleaned. The Kharif crop is ready for harvest in September-October and Rabi crop in January. *Til* oil is used in cooking and is considered to be very nutritious, and its cake is a nourishing food for the cattle. The variety of *tal* that is chiefly grown is Patan-64. It covered an area of 10,000 hectares and its out-turn was 2,000 tonnes in 1972-73.

Groundnut

Groundnut locally known as *shing* is an important cash crop which is grown in Danta, Deesa, Deodar, Kankrej, Palanpur, Radhanpur, and Santalpur talukas in the district. Farm



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yard manure, super phosphate and fish meal are considered good manures for this crop. There would be many fields where this crop is grown consecutively for over a number of years in the same furrow. The quantity of seed required is usually 25 to 35 kg. per acre. Groundnut is a Kharif crop and is sown in the beginning of July and harvested in September-October. Harvesting is done mostly by harrows. The harvested crop is collected, heaped and threshed with rakes. The pods, stalks and leaves are then separated by winnowing. The broken leaves locally known as *palo* are very useful fodder. The groundnut crop on an average yields about 200 to 300 kg. of pods and 400 to 500 kg. of fodder per acre. The seeds, by extraction, yield edible oil, which has multiple uses. The oil cake is given to cattle and quite a substantial part is used as manure after mixing it with ammonium sulphate and super phosphate. The attack of *tikka* disease, sometimes becomes a serious danger to this important cash crop.

Groundnut covered an area of 1,300 hectares and yielded 400 tonnes in 1972-73. Due to improved dry farming methods adopted recently the yield per hectare of groundnut Junagadh-11 has increased considerably.

Rape and mustard covered an area of 9,100 hectares with an out-turn of 4,500 tonnes in 1972-73.

Area under total oilseeds was 71,700 acres (29,000 hectares) in 1950-51 which increased to 34,100 hectares in 1972-73. The out-turn increased from 7,400 tonnes to 10,700 tonnes during this period.

Isabgul

Isabgul is an important cash crop in this district. It is mainly grown in the eastern parts of the district comprising Palanpur, Vadgam, Decsa and Deodar talukas where irrigation facilities are adequate and the soil is sandy. The dry climate of this tract is suitable for its cultivation. Isabgul is sown in November-December and is harvested after about four months. The quantity of seed required for sowing is usually 7 to 8 kg. per hectare.



To process this commodity into marketable husk there are factories in this area. The processed husk is exported abroad where a medicine for curing constipation is manufactured out of it. Thus Isabgul when processed fetches handsome foreign exchange for our country.

Fruits and Vegetables

Cultivation of fruit crops is very limited in the district. The important fruit crops of the district at present are mango and lemon which are grown in Vadgam, Palanpur and Deesa talukas. Fruits and vegetables were grown in 3,300 hectares in 1962-63* and 1,500 hectares in 1967-68. The main vegetables of the district at present are brinjal, potatoes and tomatoes. Potatoes were grown in 1,500 acres (600 hectares) in 1950-51, which increased to 1,700 acres (700 hectares) in 1967-68. In 1972-73, potatoes covered an area of 600 hectares. The out-turn was 24,800 tonnes or 43 per cent of the total production of potatoes in the State. Potatoes mainly grown in river bed areas of the Banas river near Deesa, were introduced in the district by the Italian prisoners of war during the second world war period. Their seeds are being procured from Simla every year. Thus this district is the largest producer of potatoes in Gujarat.

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Condiments and Spices

Condiments and spices covered an area of 10,900 hectares in 1962-63,* 24,300 hectares in 1967-68 and 32,900 hectares in 1969-70. The main crops are cumin and chillies. Cultivation of cumin is chiefly concentrated in Vadgam and Kankrej talukas. Chillies were grown in 2,200 acres (900 hectares) in 1950-51 and 2,000 acres (800 hectares) in 1967-68. Its production during these years was 400 tonnes and 500 tonnes respectively.

In 1972-73, chillies covered an area of 800 hectares with an outturn of 500 tonnes. Cumin covered an area of 29,600 hectares and its out-turn was 21,200 tonnes in 1973-74.

Handbook of Basic Statistics, Gujarat State, 1965-1966, (1970), p. 124.



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KHARIF AND RABI CROPS

Crops grown in the district can be mainly grouped into two main categories namely, the Kharif and the Rabi. The Kharif or rain-fed crops are sown in monsoon after the first rainfall in June-July and harvested usually in October-November. The Rabi or irrigated crops are usually sown in September-October and harvested in March-April.

The main Kharif crops in the district are *bajri*, *jowar*, maize, cotton, pulses etc. The main Rabi crop is wheat. Additionally, minor crops like cumin, mustard, Isabgul, etc. are also grown as Rabi crops. Potato is also grown in the river bed area of the Banas during the Rabi season provided the year has a normal rainfall. The acreage under these crops varies from year to year depending upon the season and the irrigation facilities available.

CROP CALENDAR

The calendar of sowing and harvesting operations of various crops in the district is given below :

Name of crop	Sowing period	Harvesting period
1. <i>Bajri</i> ..	.. June-July	September-October
2. Cotton ..	.. —do—	December-April
3. Maize ..	.. —do—	September-October
4. Pulses ..		
(i) Green gram ..	.. —do—	October-November
(ii) <i>Gubar</i> ..	.. —do—	—do—
(iii) <i>Tur</i> ..	.. —do—	—do—
5. <i>Jowar</i> ..	.. July-August	—do—
6. Castor ..	.. —do—	December-April
7. Cumin ..	.. October-November	March-April
8. Wheat ..	.. November	March
9. Sugarcane ..	.. January	January-March
10. Til ..	.. July-August	September-October

Source :

District Agricultural Officer, Banaskantha District.



CROP ROTATION

After the introduction of high-yielding and hybrid varieties of crops, the farmers grow multiple crops in the areas where irrigation facilities are available. The usual rotation of crops followed in the district is as under :

Two years rotations

1. *Bajri* mixed with pulses and *jowar*.
2. Maize mixed with pulses and Cotton.
3. *Bajri* and pulses.
4. *Bajri* in Kharif and wheat in Rabi.
5. *Bajri* in Kharif and mustard in Rabi.
6. Hy. cotton in Kharif and *bajri* in summer.
7. Pulses and *bajri* or *jowar*.

Three years rotations

1. *Bajri*, pulses and *jowar*.
2. Cotton *jowar* and *bajri* with pulses.
3. Vegetables, castor and *bajri*.

PROGRESS OF SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE

The availability of irrigation facilities enables the farmers to switch over to multiple cropping pattern in place of the traditional single cropping method. Modernization of agriculture through improved farm techniques and mechanisation assumes significant importance in the economic conditions prevailing at present. Farm mechanisation helps in accelerating the pace of development of agriculture. The farmer is able to undertake deep ploughing and improved agricultural practices under intensive cultivation.

Scientific methods of farming include utilisation of improved seeds evolved through agricultural research and use of modern implements, chemical fertilizers, etc.

Agricultural Implements—The agricultural implements in use in the district are mostly traditional as they are easily made and repaired and constructed out of material readily available from local areas. For agricultural operations like ploughing, harrowing and interculturing, local indigenous implements are



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used as in the past. However, under the impact of the Five Year Plans, cultivators have now started using improved implements like iron ploughs, seed drills, harrows, etc. Progressive cultivators also use implements like Baroda hoes, Allen hoes, etc. The use of tractors for ploughing is also on increase.

The following statement compares the important implements in use in the district according to the Livestock Censuses of 1951, 1961 and 1972.

STATEMENT IV.9

Agricultural Implements

Sl. No.	Name of the implements	1951*	1961*	1972†
1.	Ploughs ...	83,841	106,703	131,161
	(i) Wooden ...	83,378	103,031	109,830
	(ii) Iron ...	463	3,672	21,331
2.	Carts ...	29,694	40,905	45,411
3.	Sugarcane crushers	N. A.	390	454
	(i) Power ..	N. A.	33	38
	(ii) Bullocks ...	N. A.	357	416
4.	Oil-engines ...	N. A.	506	19,620
5.	Electric pumps	N. A.	74	1,530
6.	Tractors ...	9	44	1,082
7.	Oil-Ghanis ...	N. A.	341	95
8.	Persian wheels or Rahats ..	N. A.	44	461

N. A.=Not Available.

Source :

* District Census Handbook, 1961, Banaskantha district.

† Director Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Gujarat.

It will appear from the statement that the use of improved implements has increased steadily and considerably under the impact of the Five Year Plans. The most remarkable progress has been registered in case of tractors. Their number has increased from 9 in 1951 to as many as 1,082 in 1972. The number of iron ploughs in use in 1951 was only 463 but it increased considerably thereafter and stood at 3,672 in 1961 and 21,331 in 1972. The number of oil-engines, has increased from 506 in 1961 to 19,620 in 1972 and that of electric pumps from



74 to 1,530 during that period. The declining trend is noticed only in case of oil-*Ghanis*. The increasing investment in the agricultural implements and machinery is indicative of the progress in agrarian sector owing to the liberal assistance given to farmers by Government and the impact of development programme.

SEEDS

In the past, as a general practice, most of the cultivators kept a reserve stock of their farm produce and used it as seed for sowing in the next season. It was found that those cultivators who had used improved seeds, were able to get greater out-turn on the same soil. At present, there are six seed-multiplication farms in the district. They supply the seed requirements to the registered seed growers in the talukas. Improved varieties of seeds like Kalyan Sona, Sonalika, N. P. 824, Arnej-206 and Junagadh 1-7 in case of wheat, Malvan, c-10-2, Suvarna and C. S. H. 1 in case of *jowar*, Punjab-1, and Junagadh-11 in case of groundnut, V-797 and Sankar-4 in case of cotton and Hybrid *bajri*-3 and Kanjri in case of *bajri* are found in the district.

MANURES AND FERTILIZERS

The district has soils which are poor in fertility. Manures and fertilizers play a vital role in increasing the fertility of the soil. Cultivators also use organic manures like compost, farm-yard manures, etc. About 15,000 tonnes of town and farm yard manure is used in this district annually.

Cultivators have their farm yard manure pits outside the village area. Farm yard manure is stocked haphazardly on the ground. Cultivators are, therefore, instructed in the correct method of preparing manure from farm refuse. They are advised to dig standard sized pits viz. 10'x6'x3' and fill in pits with rubbish and rejected fodder cow dung soaked with urine, etc. The farm yard manure scheme was introduced during the Bombay State regime in 1949-50 with the object of improving the quality and quantity of farm yard manure produced by farmers.

At present, four local bodies, viz., Palanpur Municipality, Deesa Nagar Panchayat, Radhanpur Nagar Panchayat and Ambaji



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Gram Panchayat prepare compost in the district. A total of 5,683 tonnes of compost was prepared during 1973-74, by these institutions.

Till 1973-74, 23 Gobar gas plants were prepared in the district. Out of these, 9 were in Palanpur, 4 in Deesa, 3 in Danta, 3 in Kankrej, 2 in Radhanpur, and 1 each was in Vadgam and Dhanera.

The following figures indicate the utilisation of different fertilizers in the district. This shows that use of fertilizers has increased significantly between 1969-70 and 1972-73 :

STATEMENT IV.10

Fertilizers used				(IN TONNES)
Year	Nitrogenous in form of Ammonium Sulphate	Phosphatic in form of Super-phosphate	Potastic in form of Muriate of Potash	
1969-70	6,472	2,442	N. A.	
1970-71	11,322	6,402	475	
1971-72	13,097	5,200	546	
1972-73	14,410	4,053	204	

Source : District Agricultural Officer, Banaskantha District.

AGRICULTURAL PESTS AND DISEASES

The damage and loss caused by pests and diseases are known to everybody. Therefore, there cannot be two opinions for the need of scientific control of pests and diseases in these days of food shortage.

Before Independence, cultivators did not generally use insecticides and pesticides as the same were not available easily and on attractive terms. After Independence and the subsequent implementation of the Five Year Plans and the Community Development Programme, crop protection services were introduced in the district. Under this scheme, insecticides and pesticides are supplied to cultivators on easy terms.



The pests and diseases found in the district in different crops are as follows :

Sl. No.	Name of crop	Pests-Diseases
1.	Jowar, Groundnut, Cotton, Tobacco, Sesamum, Pulses, Grass	Grass-Hopper
2.	All crops	Caterpillar
3.	Bajri, Groundnut	White grubs
4.	Jowar, Maize, Sugarcane, Ragi	Stemborer
5.	Sugarcane, Fruit trees, wheat, Jowar, Bajri	White-Ants
6.	Castor	Semi-hopper
7.	Tur, Gram	Pod borer
8.	Cotton	Bollworm, aphids
9.	Cotton, Brinjal, Potato, Bhinda	Jassids
10.	Maize, Bajri, Jowar	Downy mildew
11.	Cumin, Val, Peas	Powdery mildew
12.	Bajri	Ergot
13.	Groundnut	Tikka

Source :

District Agricultural Officer, Banaskantha District.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The following research stations are working in the district for evolving improved varieties of seeds.

1. The Dry Farming Research Station, Radhanpur

Agricultural production in the areas receiving scanty rainfall fluctuates greatly depending on the monsoon rains. Experiments in dry farming are, therefore, being conducted at the Dry Farming Research Station at Radhanpur. This station was started in 1963 to study the maximum possible advantage of the available rain water and subsequently to develop the dry farming practices in cultivation of *bajri*, cotton, *mag*, etc. It recommends improved methods of cultivation according to the soil and climate.

In the Kharif season of 1972, experiments were undertaken regarding *bajri*, cotton and the use of farm yard manure. But due to drought condition, the experiments failed completely. In 1973, five experiments were conducted on *bajri*, cotton and *mag*. All these experiments were successful. As a result, *bajri* (Variety J-87), cotton,



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(variety-V-797) and *mag* (variety S-9) gave the highest yield per hectare. In 1974, all these experiments were repeated, but due to drought condition they were not successful as in the past.

2. *The Agricultural Research Station, Deesa*

The Agricultural Research Station was started in 1955 at Deesa for conducting research activities in the field of breeding, agronomy and entomology.

Research experiments have been so far conducted on *jowar*, *bajri* and pulses with varied doses of fertilizers etc. At present, experiments are conducted on *bajri*, green gram (*mag*) and groundnut. Experiments are also conducted on different methods of application of fertilizers on *bajri* and wheat. Entomological trials on potato are also being conducted at this station by the All India Co-ordinator, Potato Improvement Project.

The Agricultural School, Deesa

For successful implementation of the agricultural development schemes, education and training of young farmers is necessary. With a view to imparting systematic training to them, the Agricultural School was started at Deesa in 1964. This school runs a two-year certificate course and imparts training about increasing food production by improved methods. Since the beginning of the school, 158 students have been imparted training.

Besides these, a *Jowar* Research Centre is functioning at Deesa.

The Intensive Agricultural Area Programme

The Intensive Agricultural Area Programme was introduced in this district in 1967. Six talukas viz., Palanpur, Vadgam, Deesa, Dhanera, Deodar and Kankrej from this district are covered under the scheme. The object of this programme is to increase agricultural production by providing package of inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, etc., in proper form and at proper time. The cultivators are also guided in efficient irrigated farming. The crops covered under this programme are *bajri*, *jowar*, cotton, wheat, potatoes, groundnut, and rice. After the introduction of this programme, the area under improved seeds of the above mentioned crops has increased from 47,802 hectares in 1966-67 to 92,476 hectares in 1974-75.



ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The Banaskantha district with irregular rainfall, dry climate and sandy soil is considered an ideal tract for cattle breeding. It has a considerably large area under fodder crops which covered 1,43,000 hectares in the year 1969-70. Its dry climate and sandy soil make the bullocks sturdy and fast moving with a good power of resisting diseases. During a recent All-India competition, the Kankreji cow won the award of 'Gopal-Ratna' by yielding as high as 43 lbs. of milk per day. The bullocks of Kankrej, Vav and Tharad are considered better than those of any other part of Gujarat. The district can therefore claim to be a home of cattle breeding in Gujarat.

The climate is also conducive to breeding of camels, sheep and goats. The sheep here give as much as 60 per cent wool, most of which is exported outside the country.

In spite of this, there were no adequate facilities for a proper treatment of cattle till the introduction of the Five Year Plans. Banaskantha had no office of the District Animal Husbandry Officer. This office was opened only in May, 1959. During the Second Plan period, every taluka of the district was provided with a well equipped veterinary dispensary. Schemes for providing pedigree bulls, and supplying grass in enough quantities were also introduced during the Second Plan period.

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During the Third Plan period, three Gaushalas and three supplementary cattle breeding centres were opened. Breeding bulls were reared to improve the progeny. For the development of poultry, a poultry extension centre was started at Palanpur. Poultry keeping is more concentrated in Danta and Palanpur talukas.

Cattle Development

Cattle Development under Drought Prone Area Programme—The programme has been sponsored by the Central Government in the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-75 to 1978-79). Under this programme areas of chronic drought comprising six talukas, viz., Tharad, Vav, Radhanpur, Santalpur, Deodar and Dhanera have been covered. The following activities are undertaken : (i) animal health cover and control of contagious and chronic disease, (ii) controlled breeding, (iii) improved feeding, (iv) production incentive through the rural



extension services, propaganda and publicity, (v) milk marketing, (vi) artificial insemination for pure and cross breeding and (vii) fodder development.

To implement these activities, six veterinary mobile units have been attached to the six veterinary dispensaries of the above mentioned talukas. An amount of Rs. 6 lakhs was spent during 1974-75 for these activities.

Kankrej Cattle-breeding Programme—The district is the home-tract of the world famous dual-purpose breed of Kankrej cattle. There is one Kankrej cattle breeding farm at Thara in Kankrej taluka functioning since 1966. Under this programme, 17 pedigree bulls of pure Kankrej breed were supplied at nominal cost of Rs. 100 each to 17 Gram Panchayats of the district between 1970 and 1973 to get better progeny. The farm has got a herd of 172 animals and 752 acres of land about 3 km. away from the village Thara.

Cross-breeding Programme—The cross-breeding programme has been initiated in the Palanpur, Vadgam and Danta talukas by the District Panchayat since 1975. For this purpose, the required doze of Jersey bull semen is brought from the Sabarmati Ashram Goshala of Ahmadabad through the Banas Dairy, Palanpur and distributed to the respective veterinary officers who carry out artificial insemination amongst the local cows. Through this scheme it is aimed to produce high yielding cross breed cows and thereby to increase the overall milk production in the district.

The District Sheep and Wool Extension Centre, Deesa—With a view to improving the quality and quantity of wool by scientific methods, a sheep extension unit was established at Palanpur in December, 1973. It was shifted in May 1974 to Deesa which is a big wool producing centre of the district. The main activities of the unit which is now known as the District Sheep and Wool Extension Centre include survey and census of sheep population, registration of sheep flock, collection of wool samples for analysing the quality of wool, vaccination against diseases prevailing among sheep, organisation of co-operative societies, etc. The work of census of sheep population has been taken up in the first instance. The prevalence of severe drought condition in the district had hampered the progress of working of the centre in the initial stages.

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The unit has by now opened 8 centres in Deesa, Dhanera, Radhanpur, Santalpur and Deodar talukas.

The Immune Belt Scheme, Radhanpur—With the object of protecting animals against the deadly disease of rinderpest, a scheme sponsored by Government of India was initiated in the State from 1961-62. Under the scheme, immune belts are required to be created on the inter-State borders, so that animals of one district or State are duly protected from the diseases prevalent outside. One such immune belt was established at Radhanpur in the year 1969. During the first year of the operation of the scheme, 53,179 animals were immunised. The number rose to 163,337 in 1974-75. Vaccination was carried out in 210 villages of the district.

The Rinderpest Checkpost, Deesa—A checkpost with one livestock inspector and an attendant was established at Deesa in the year 1973-74 with a view to protecting incoming and outgoing animals from the district. At this checkpost, 50,080 animals were protected against the rinderpest disease in 1974-75.

Veterinary Aid.—There are 11 veterinary dispensaries at Palanpur, Deesa, Vadgam, Danta, Dhanera, Thara, Deodar, Radhanpur, Santalpur, Tharad and Vav. Besides, there are 22 first-aid veterinary centres in the district of which two each are located at taluka headquarters—Palanpur, Deesa, Vadgam, Danta, Dhanera, Kankrej, Deodar, Radhanpur, Santalpur, Tharad and Vav. The district has three artificial insemination centres one each at Palanpur, Vadgam and Danta. One bull centre is also opened at Dhanera since 1973, under the care and management of the Veterinary Officer, Dhanera. The aim of this centre is to produce better quality Kankrej cows and bullocks. The list of veterinary dispensaries, first aid veterinary centres and artificial insemination centres is given below :



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STATEMENT IV.11

Veterinary Dispensaries, First Aid Veterinary Centres and Artificial Insemination Centres

Sl. No. 1	Location of Veterinary Dispensaries 2	Location of F. A. V. Cs. 3	A. I. Centres for cross breeding 4
1. Palanpur		(1) Amirgadh (2) Chandisa	Palanpur —
2. Deesa		(3) Juna Deesa (4) Bhildi	—
3. Vadgam		(5) Chhapi (6) Kaleda	Vadgam
4. Danta		(7) Ambaji (8) Mankdi	Danta
5. Dhanera		(9) Panthawada (10) Jadia	— —
6. Thara		(11) Shihori (12) Un	— —
7. Deodar		(13) Forna (14) Bhabhar	— —
8. Radhanpur		(15) Nanapura (16) Gotarka	—
9. Santalpur		(17) Varahi (18) Korda	— —
10. Tharad		(19) Piluda (20) Undrana	— —
11. Vav		(21) Dhima (22) Morwada	— —

Source:

District Animal Husbandry Officer, Banaskantha District.

Livestock Population

The livestock population of the district is nearly 14 lakhs which is much more than its human population. In respect of goats and camels, its population is the highest among all the districts of Gujarat. The following statement compares the livestock population of the Banaskantha district from 1951 to 1972.

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DISTRICT GAZETTEER : BANASKANTHA

STATEMENT IV.12

Livestock Population 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966 and 1972

Categories of Livestock	* 1951	* 1956	* 1961	@ 1966	† 1972
1	2	3	4	5	6
Total Livestock	1,119,973	13,29,010	13,35,855	14,44,261	13,99,999
(A) Bullocks and Cows	4,76,133	5,19,053	5,78,871	5,70,809	4,55,076
1. Males over 3 years	1,78,402	1,85,961	2,13,755	2,25,245	2,01,263
2. Females over 3 years	1,57,040	1,65,845	1,99,640	1,88,640	1,46,202
(in milk)	(84,274)	(86,375)	(90,921)	(76,228)	(79,477)
3. Young Stock	1,40,691	1,67,247	1,65,476	1,56,924	1,07,611
(B) Buffaloes	1,74,645	1,85,352	2,16,596	2,42,822	2,42,126
1. Males over 3 years	2,226	1,733	3,150	2,310	1,384
2. Females over 3 years	1,02,932	1,03,192	1,31,205	1,44,138	1,46,401
(in milk)	(59,005)	(60,131)	(66,372)	(69,173)	(74,374)
3. Young Stock	69,487	80,427	82,241	96,374	94,341
(C) Sheep	2,20,845	2,96,135	2,61,281	2,64,399	2,15,779
(D) Goats	2,31,366	2,93,113	2,41,424	3,31,469	4,54,118
(E) Horses and Ponies	5,599	6,330	8,503	6,200	2,424
(F) Mules	N.A.	101	73	9	37
(G) Donkeys	11,385	12,078	12,318	11,935	10,749
(H) Camels	N.A.	16,846	16,780	16,608	19,604
(I) Pigs	N.A.	2	9	10	86
Poultry	9,121	23,008	40,315	35,929	40,053
1. Fowls	8,965	22,935	40,272	35,773	39,850
2. Ducks	156	69	15	17	203
3. Others	..	4	28	139	..

Source :

* District Census Handbook 1961. Banaskantha, Part II, p. 160.

@ District Census Handbook 1971, Banaskantha, X-C, p. 20.

† Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Gujarat State.

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As the statement indicates, the livestock population has registered an overall increase of 2.80 lakhs during twenty years, though there is a significant decrease between 1966 and 1972 due to series of scarcity years during the last five years. The number of bullocks increased from 1.78 lakhs in 1951 to 2.25 lakhs in 1966 but came down to 2.01 lakhs in 1972. Similarly, the number of cows increased from 1.57 lakhs to 1.88 lakhs between 1951 and 1966 but decreased to 1.46 lakhs in 1972. The population of the young-stock was most severely affected as it actually came down from 1.40 lakhs to 1.07 lakhs between 1951 and 1972. A similar declining trend has been noticed in respect of sheep, horses and donkeys. Their population has decreased during the last two decades. In spite of this, the number of camels in the district is still the highest in Gujarat.

The most noteworthy increase is registered in respect of poultry. Its population has increased from 9,121 in 1951 to 40,053 in 1972. This is primarily due to the encouragement given to poultry farmers under the various poultry development schemes.

Dairying

The Banas Dairy, Palanpur—Due to scanty rainfall and sandy soil, agricultural returns are almost minimum in this district as a result of which farmers turn to cattle rearing as an alternative or additional and permanent source of income. Moreover mixed farming is the order of the day. The district has therefore a very large livestock population. Banaskantha is the home of the famous Kankrej breed of cow. The buffaloes of this district are quite heavy yielders of milk. About 15,000 milch buffaloes from this district are exported to Bombay city every year.

In the past, there was no market for supply of milk and ghee in the district except Radhanpr. The milk producers had therefore no permanent and steady market for milk. To remove this difficulty, the Banaskantha District Co-operative Milk Producer's Union was established at Palanpur during the year 1966-67. The union was registered in January 1969 and started collecting milk from milk societies from November 1969. About 3,000 farmers were affiliated to the union in the beginning.

Under the 'Operation Flood Programme' the Indian Dairy Corporation, sanctioned Rs. 1.20 crores for establishing a Dairy Pro-



ject at Palanpur with a capacity to handle 1.5 lakh litres of milk per day. The entire dairy project was completed in 1974--75.

Two milk cold storage centres, one at Khimana and the other at Dhanera with a total capacity of 60,000 litres milk were started simultaneously. Milk chilling at the project site was also started on a pilot scale to avoid heavy losses to farmers and to train the personnel to man the project when commissioned.

The union has started supplying pasteurised milk to the Municipal Dairy, Ahmadabad in addition to Palanpur and Deesa. The ghee and casein making has also been started. The dairy collects about 70,000 litres of milk per day. It produces 4,000 tons of whole-milk powder, 30,000 tons butter, 500 tons ghee and 250 tons casein in a normal year. The dairy has also taken up cross breeding programme since 1974.

The dairy project is the first and foremost to be commissioned under the "Operation Flood Programme"

Domestic Animals

The Palanpur Agency Directory¹ mentions oxen, cows, buffaloes, sheep, goats, horses, camels and asses as the chief domestic animals of the region. It records :

"The oxen of the Kankrej, Vav and Tharad States are considered better than those of any other part of Gujarat, and they are found all over Gujarat in the stables of the wealthy. They are fine, strong, wellbuilt animals, of good height and in colour generally white, (*muzda*). They are bred by cultivators and Rabari herdsmen from two kinds of bulls, the *Palel* and the *Akhlo*. A *Palel* bull, (*Sandh*), is worth from Rs. 50 to 150 and an *Akhlo* bull from Rs. 25 to 40. Sheep and goats, generally white or white and black, are bred by Rabari herdsmen who sell their wool, milk and butter. Camels are reared by landholders and by Rabari and Sindhi herdsmen. They are used both for riding and for carrying baggage. Horses are bred in these parts by large landlords, *Talukdars* and *Jagirdars* and by well-to-do cultivators and Banias. Ravals (grain carriers) and *Kumbhars* (potters) rear asses and use them as beasts of burden."

1. MASTER FRAMROZ SORABJI, *The Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. 1, (1908), pp. 9-10.



Kankrej bull—As stated above, the Kankrej bull is world famous. The main characteristic of this breed is its light grey body colour and dark grey colour on the face. Both the fore and the hind legs have black colour in front up to the knee and hock. The head is broad and disc-shaped and the mouth is short. The ears are long and extending upto the nostrils. The hump is well developed. The tail is short extending a little below the hock. The gait of the breed is popularly known as “*savai chal*”. The Kankrej cattle are very highly prized as fast, powerful draught cattle.

Buffaloes—The district has Mahesana buffaloes which appear to have been derived from a mixture of Murah and Surati breed. They are considered to be particularly valuable milch animals due to their early maturity, long period of milk supply and regularity in breeding. They are largely used for milk and ghee production. The Mahesana buffalo is a well shaped animal of medium size. The general appearance is bright with prominent eyes, straight back, sickle shaped curved horns of medium length, and long and broad head rounded between the horns. The animals are docile in character. These buffaloes are considered to be economical producers of milk and butter fat. The average milk yield is from 1,500 to 2,000 litres per lactation period of 300 days. The fat content varies from 7 to 7.5 per cent.

Sheep—The district is a sheep breeding tract. Marwadi and Patanwadi breeds are predominantly found here. The main breed in the district is Marwadi breed. Its chief characteristics are as under.

The colour of the face is black upto the head line and nose is long and straight. The eyes are bright and yellow. The ears are short and twisted inside and black in some flocks. The neck is white, short and thick. The wattles are completely absent. All the four legs are long and slender and coronet is black. The back is levelled and straight. The wool is white. The udder is of small size with small teats. The tail is long extending upto hocks. The average body weight of ram is 36 kg. and that of ewe is 27 kg. Lambs are about 3 kg. at birth. The fleec is white and the quality is coarse.

The Patanwadi sheep is red-faccd with long tails and ears. The limbs and face are devoid of wool. The wool of the sheep of



this region is found to be of a very high quality and is exported abroad by merchants via Bedi port from Saurashtra. It is known as Jodia variety.

Goats—Generally Muslims, Harijans, Rabaris and Bharwads keep goats for milk purpose. There are two types, *Patira* a small one and *Deshi* a tall one. The first type gives 1 litre milk while the latter gives 2 litres.

Donkeys—There is no regular breeding of donkeys in the district. They are used as beasts of burden by Rawals and Odes.

Horses—The popular breed of horse is Marwadi. The horse keeping had become a hobby of the past, with horse-carriage being replaced by auto-rickshaws and cars. Moreover, with the disappearance of the princes who were fond of keeping horses both for defence and riding, the demand for horses has diminished. Horses of the Marwadi breed are taller than these of the Saurashtrian breed and are used by the police force.

Camels—They are used by the Rawal community for transport purpose. The climate of the district is suitable for camels. As such their number is the highest among all districts of Gujarat. According to the Livestock Census of 1972, it was 19,604.

Poultry—The people who live in the urban areas now take interest in poultry breeding. There is a Government poultry demonstration centre at Palanpur where poultry birds are reared and distributed to the farmers. There is no Government or private poultry farm in the district but there are 300 poultry keepers, mostly inhabited at (1) Hasanpur (2) Deesa (3) Chadotar and (4) Manpura.

FISHERIES

Fishing is an age-old profession practised either for food or livelihood. Its existence goes back alongwith human history down to the ages. However, as far as this district is concerned, there is no record to trace or describe the history of fishing or fishing industry other than the recent, decade-old development of inland fisheries. As Banaskantha has no sea-coast, fishing is mainly confined to the river Banas, its tributaries and other water-sheets including ponds and tanks. These sources hold indigenous fish.



The important fishing centre of the district is Dantiwada, close to the reservoir. It is a main fish seed production centre of the district. All the fishing activities are concentrated here to develop lacustrine or reservoir fisheries. As a matter of fact, the Dantiwada reservoir has proved to be one of the best lacustrine fishery resources in the whole of Gujarat. Under the Dantiwada multipurpose scheme, 10 nursery tanks and 10 other tanks for fisheries were set up during the Third Five Year Plan. Deesa is another centre situated at the down stream of the project where a co-operative fishing society is functioning.

The reservoir fisheries came into prominence with the construction of the Dantiwada irrigation dam. As a part of the development of reservoir fishery in the district, a fish-seed-farm was established in 1966 near the dam site to produce fish-seed of good quality and to meet the requirement of stocking the water sheets in the district. The development schemes are discussed below.

1. Establishment of Fish Farm : Stocking of Carp and Local Fry

Under the scheme, a fish-seed farm has been established at Dantiwada since 1966 to produce the seed of quick growing carp to meet the growing demand for stocking the reservoir and other water sheets in the district. Before the establishment of the farm, the fish-seed was purchased from West Bengal for stocking. After the establishment of the farm, production of fish-seed is carried out by induced breeding with pituitary hormone-extraction through muscular injection. Regular breeding operations are carried out on major-carp and grass-carp during monsoon while breeding of common-carp is conducted in winter. Both grass-carp and common-carp are introduced from outside the country to enrich the local resources.

2. Development of Fisheries in deep Tanks

Under this scheme, the development of reservoir fisheries including large tanks is taken up or by stocking them intensively to increase the production on commercial basis. Intensive stocking is carried out with the seed produced at the fish-seed farm at Dantiwada. As a result, the reservoir is now exploited commercially



and profitably. The fish catch from the reservoir has increased from 8,827 kg. in 1967--68 to 135,078 kg. in 1972--73.

Fish Production

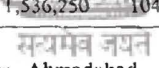
A Fishermen's Co-operative Society which was established during the Third Plan period carries out the exploitation of the reservoir for fishing purposes. The Fisheries Department charges only the royalty of fish caught by them. The fish is marketed in fresh condition to Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, Agra, etc. There is no export outside the country. As the following statement shows there has been considerable increase in fish production, consumption and export during the last three years.

STATEMENT IV.13

Fish Production, Export, etc.

(QUANTITY IN TONNES, VALUE IN RS.)

Year	Total Production		Local Consumption		Export	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value.
1970-71	776	10,58,000	89	127,300	686	936,700
1971-72	855	1,296,250	94	145,800	761	1,150,450
1972-73	935	1,536,250	104	160,700	831	1,375,550

Source :  Commissioner of Fisheries, Ahmadabad.

The local consumption in this district has remained limited due to the fact that a major portion of the population consists of vegetarians.

FORESTS

The total area under forests in Banaskantha is 1,435.59 sq. km. Of this 456.17 sq. km. are reserved forests, 11.58 sq.km. are protected forests and 967.84 sq. km. are unclassified forests. The forest area is mostly confined to hilly slopes. The eastern part of the district particularly the Palanpur and Danta talukas are fairly well forested. The forests perform the vital functions of (a) conservation of water resources (b) mitigation of floods and (c) conservation of soil which reduces sedimentation of river valley projects as in case of the Dantiwada project.



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As the forest area in this district falls much below the proportion recommended in the National Forest Policy 1952 adopted by Government of India, afforestation schemes assume much importance. Under afforestation schemes, the land is covered with grass and tree plantations to arrest soil erosion and increase fertility of the soil. Actual plantation of trees was done in 250 hectares of land during the year 1972-73.

Forest Development Schemes

Various schemes for the development of forests are being implemented in this district. They include :—(1) Scheme for afforestation on desert border and soil and moisture conservation and afforestation of denuded areas, (2) Khair plantation, (3) Special employment programme, (4) Construction of buildings, (5) Farm forestry-cum-fuel-wood plantation--Raising of nursery for *Vanmahotsav*, (6) Desert Development Programme, and (7) Drought-Prone Area Programme. A total amount of about Rs 10.12 lakhs was spent during 1972--73 for execution of these schemes. Details about achievements under these schemes are given in the following statement:

STATEMENT IV.14
Forest Development Schemes

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme.	Achievement during 1972-73	
		Physical in hectare.	Financial Rs.
1	2	3	4
1.	Scheme for afforestation on desert border and soil and moisture conservation and afforestation of denuded areas.	250 (P) 250 (A) 1 Building	2,16,387
2.	Scheme for Khair plantation	55 (P) 60 (A)	25,300
3.	Scheme for special employment programme	1,479 (A)	4,41,993
4.	Scheme for construction of buildings.	2, Foresters	32,203
5.	Scheme for farm forestry-cum-fuel wood plantation-Raising of nursery for Vanmahotsav.	5,00,000 Seedlings.	49,892
6.	Scheme for Desert Development Programme in Santalpur taluka.	150 (P) 100 (A)	1,40,910
7.	Scheme for D.P.A.P. in Radhanpur Taluka	150 (P) 100 (A)	1,05,053

(P)—Plantation. (A)—Advance works.

Source :

Divisional Forest Officer, Banaskantha.



The Road and Village Forests

Of late, schemes for planting trees on canal banks, roads and village sites have become popular. In the year 1973-74, the roadside and canal bank plantation works were started in the district. In 1974-75, seedlings were planted in about 15 km. on the Ahmadabad, Palanpur highway falling in Vadgam taluka. Thor fencing and digging of pits in 60 km. of road length on the Ahmadabad-Palanpur-Deesa-Radhanpur road was also undertaken.

As regards village forest plantation the programme was started in the year 1974-75. During the year the Panchayats of 15 villages agreed to take up afforestation in their *gaucher* lands and the work of fencing and digging of pits was completed.

The minimum target of village forest plantation is 4 hectares per year per village. It is expected that about 25 villages in this district will have village forest in their *gaucher* area to the extent of 4 hectares or more during the Fifth Five Year Plan.

THE STATE ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE

Before Independence, during the princely State regime, tagavi toans were advanced by the states for financing agriculture. Cultivators were encouraged to sink new wells by the grant of tagavi loans. The amount advanced was recovered within about ten years by annual instalments. Tagavi advances were also granted to needy cultivators for other agricultural requirements.¹

After the merger of the native states in the Indian Union, the Government decided to establish a permanent agency to finance agriculture. In the former Bombay State, it was the Bombay State Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank. After the formation of the Gujarat State, the Land Mortgage Bank in the State was renamed as the Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank. It opened its branches at Palanpur, Vadgam, Deesa, Tharad, Kan-krej and Radhanpur in 1960. The branches at Deodar and Dhan-era were established in 1962 and those at Santalpur, Vav and Danta in 1963. Agricultural finance by this Bank plays a vital role in fulfilling the long-term credit requirements of the agricultural

1. *Summary Report of the Administration of the Palanpur State, 1941-42, p. 23.*



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sector. As a result, the agriculturists are inspired and inclined to take to scientific methods of farming requiring more credit facilities. Thus, the advances made by the bank become instrumental in accelerating the development of agriculture.

The following statement gives details of the finance made available for various purposes to the agriculturists by the bank.

STATEMENT IV.15

Agricultural Finance Advanced to Cultivators since beginning upto June 1974

Sl. No.	Purpose	Amount (Rs.)	Percentage
1.	Sinking of new wells and repairs to old wells	.. 3,66,91,595	25.55
2.	Oil-engines, electric motors, pumping sets, etc.	= 9,52,32,056	66.33
3.	Purchase of tractors	.. 79,90,871	5.56
4.	Contour bunding	.. 4,600	00.03
5.	Farm houses, repairs and machine rooms	.. 14,21,941	00.98
6.	Redemption of old debt and other unclassified purposes..	22,30,716	1.55
Total ..		14,35,71,779	100.00

Source :

Annual Report, Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank Ltd. Ahmadabad 1973-74, pp. 18-19.

The statement given above shows that more than 91 per cent of the advances given by the bank were utilised for increasing irrigational facilities i. e. purchase of oil-engines, electric motors, pumping sets, etc., and construction of new wells or repairs of old ones.

Recovery of dues is as important as advances of loans, Banaskantha stood second in recovery operations among all the districts of Gujarat in 1973-74. Recovery in this year was to the extent of 70 per cent.



The branchwise advances given by the bank are shown in the following statement:

STATEMENT IV.16
Advances to Cultivators

Sl. No.	Branch	Advances during 1973-74 (Rs.)	Advances since beginning up to 30-6-74 (Rs.)	Loan outstanding on 30-6-74 (Rs.)
1.	Palanpur	10,10,320	1,58,82,598	95,83,479
2.	Vadgam	15,11,800	1,68,62,746	103,60,510
3.	Deesa	22,56,200	3,49,31,700	2,54,71,833
4.	Tharad	12,62,300	1,14,70,600	78,24,970
5.	Kankrej	5,81,540	2,25,69,132	1,63,00,352
6.	Radhanpur	49,110	21,09,674	10,74,706
7.	Deodar	17,66,300	1,83,30,277	1,21,27,356
8.	Vav .. ..	.. ..	15,34,452	8,77,363
9.	Dhanera	14,67,300	1,68,72,680	1,14,54,496
10.	Santalpur	3,700	5,53,720	2,65,628
11.	Danta	1,11,000	24,54,200	12,98,496
	Total	1,00,19,570	14,35,71,779	9,66,39,189

Source :

Annual Report - Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank Ltd. Ahmadabad, 1973-74. pp. 32-33.

It can be seen from the above statement that a total amount of Rs. 14.35 crores has been advanced by the Bank to cultivators since the establishment of its branches in this district. Advances made in 1973-74 were of the order of Rs 100 lakhs.

In addition to the advances from the Land Development Bank, the cultivators now receive adequate help from the joint stock banks. The co-operative societies also advance loans for specific purposes.

FAMINES AND SCARCITY

The abnormalities or vagaries of the monsoon may either cause floods by excessive rains or droughts by scanty rains. The Banaskantha district being a tract of scanty rain there have been only a few floods but many famines, some of them very severe.



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As the former Gazetteer¹ recorded, "Except near the hills, the district is liable to droughts from want of rain, and in 1813, 1825, 1833, 1870 and 1877, suffered severely. The year 1833 was a year of great scarcity amounting to famine. The early crops were entirely destroyed, and grain prices rose to a height unknown since the great famine of 1813. To help the importation of grain and lighten distress the Diwan removed grain transit duties, and gave every encouragement to sinking wells. Great precautions had to be taken to preserve the public peace, much threatened by predatory bands of law-less starving Kolis. Of the earlier famines, the severest was the famine of 1813. In 1811 the crops failed, in 1812 a promising harvest was destroyed by locusts, and in 1813 the crops again failed from want of rain. To such straits were the people brought that some are said to have lived on human flesh. In such numbers did they die that the survivors could not carry away the dead. Villages were left desolate, and parts of the district formerly under tillage have ever since lain waste. The price of grain was six pounds the rupee. In Palanpur, a State grain store was opened selling grain at sixteen pounds the rupee. Useful works were undertaken near the city and the workmen fed, and the rural watch was increased. Similar measures were adopted in Radhanpur. In the other years scarcity had been partial, the distress and want of grain not rising to famines."

The whole area again suffered severely from the famines of 1900-1902. Relief measures were commenced in September 1899, and were closed in October 1902. The highest daily average number of persons in receipt of relief was 92,348 in July 1900. Over 20 lakhs of rupees were spent on famine relief in the year 1899-1900².

The famine of 1899 and subsequent bad years seriously affected the whole economy of the region. Bad and lean years recurred with distressing frequency, leaving a legacy of fresh debts to the cultivators and the land owners. The revenues of the minor talukdars were depleted and large expenditure had to be incurred by Government in the direct management of famine administration in the smaller estates. Absence of communication made it very

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha* (1880), pp. 293-96.
2. ENTHROVEN R. E., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *B Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha*, (Supplement) (1905), pp. 21-22.



difficult to transport fodder over the sandy roads. The agricultural population decreased by about 30 per cent between 1891 and 1901 owing to the spread of cholera which followed the calamitous famine of 1899. The famine was followed by several lean years which added to the indebtedness of the cultivators. The State encouraged construction of wells. Cultivators were lent money at the moderate interest of 3 per cent. The productive capacity of the soil was affected by various causes such as the physical deterioration of the cultivators, the habit of drinking, paucity of cattle, high prices of all materials required for agricultural purposes, decrease in population and the prevailing high wages of labourers. Scarcity prevailed in 1904-05, 1911-12 and 1915-16¹ and again in 1926 and 1939, though no authentic details are available about the same.

Thereafter the Palanpur State Administration Reports recorded 1941-42, 1942-43, 1944-45 and 1945-46, as scarcity years. During that period, several steps were taken for relief works both by the State authorities and voluntary agencies. Cultivators were encouraged to sink new wells by the grant of tagavi loans. A fair-price grain shop was opened at Palanpur for the sale of wheat and *bajri* at reduced rates.²

The Fact Finding Committee appointed by the Government in 1958 classified (i) Santalpur, Radhanpur, Vav and Tharad talukas and (ii) parts of Dhanera and Deodar talukas as areas where there is a total failure of crops once (i) in every three years and (ii) six years respectively. Nearly 400 villages of Tharad, Vav, Radhanpur and Santalpur talukas were affected by scarcity during the period from 1949--50 to 1952--53 and 1955-56 to 1957--58. Of these, 133 villages were from Tharad, 121 villages from Vav, 66 villages from Radhanpur and 75 villages from Santalpur taluka. Danta, Palanpur and Deesa talukas were free from scarcity. Kankrej and Vadgam are favourably situated in matter of soil and irrigation facilities as rainfall is higher than the other talukas viz., Vav, Tharad, Radhanpur and Santalpur. The areas which require closer consideration from the point of view of chronic scarcity are Santalpur, Radhanpur, Vav, Tharad and parts of Dhanera and Deodar.

1. *The Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. IV (1919), pp. 2-10.

2. *Administration Reports of the Palanpur State*, 1941-42, 1942-43, 1944-45 and 1945-46.



Santalpur

In Santalpur the annual average rainfall is 15". As there are no adequate irrigation facilities, a number of villages do not get sufficient drinking water. The soils are basically saline and their improvement is found difficult and uneconomic. The history of scarcity shows that six out of every ten years are usually scarcity years affecting the whole or a part of the taluka.

Radhanpur

In Radhanpur many of the villages have saline soil. They experience difficulty of drinking water. The average rainfall is 18".

Vav

The average rainfall for the last few years in this taluka is 18". There is also very heavy erosion by wind and spread of sand blown by cyclones. On account of desert conditions most of the villages suffer from scarcity of drinking water even in normal years.

Tharad

The average rainfall is about 17.84". In the years 1936, 1939, 1940, 1942, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1951, and 1957 the rainfall was much below the average, being less than 10". The soil of this area is very poor. The irrigated area is much below the average.

Dhanera

The average rainfall is only 9.9". The irrigated area of this taluka is very limited.

Deodar

The average rainfall is 19.0". The rainfall data prior to 1950 are not available. During 1951, the total rainfall was 7.2" and in 1955 it was 11.8". The soil is saline and sub-soil water is brackish.¹

In the years of scarcity when Kharif crops are a failure, the population has to be provided labour work as a relief measure. Due to shortage of drinking water in several villages of Vav, Santalpur and Radhanpur talukas, water facilities have to be provided by

1. Report of the Fact Finding Committee for Survey of Scarcity Areas in Bombay State, 1960, Vol. II, pp. 24-26.



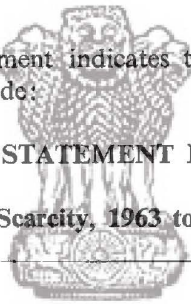
water tankers. In other villages *kutch* wells are dug or deepened. For deepening and repairs of well as well as for construction of new wells, grants are given to the agriculturists by Government. Cattle are most adversely affected during the periods of scarcity. To save the cattle life in the affected areas, fodder has to be brought from outside. During the recent past, conditions were more severe in 1966-67, 1968-69 and 1969-70 when Government spent Rs. 9 lakhs, Rs. 83 lakhs and Rs. 391 lakhs respectively for relief measures. The number of villages affected by scarcity was 313 in 1966-67, 1,259 in 1968-69 and 1,032 in 1969-70.

In 1972-73 about 362 villages were affected in Santalpur, Radhanpur, Vav, Tharad, Kankrej and Deodar talukas. Relief measures were taken up by the Government to alleviate the suffering of the people.

The following statement indicates the scarcity years in the district during the last decade:

STATEMENT IV.17

Scarcity, 1963 to 1973



Sl. No. 1	Year 2	No. of villages affected 3	Population affected 4	Cattle affected 5	Total relief expenditure incurred by Government (Rs.) 6
1.	1963-64	.. 18	9,327	7,947	41,402.50
2.	1964-65	.. ..	..	..	2,867.65
3.	1965-66	.. 2	719	674	30,461.20
4.	1966-67	.. 313	177,374	137,633	9,44,362.40
5.	1967-68	.. 20	10,079	8,779	33,11,441.76
6.	1968-69	.. 1,259	869,895	1,227,472	83,33,932.05
7.	1969-70	.. 1,032	810,761	983,702	39,114,360.58
8.	1970-71	.. ..	..	..	15,673,652.59
9.	1971-72	.. 4	..	..	60,091.82
10.	1972-73	.. 362	300,484	245,407	84,62,157.79

Source :

Collector, Banaskantha.



CHAPTER IV —AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

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Floods

Prior to the year 1973, the entire district was never affected by a flood, though heavy rainfall was recorded during the years 1932--33 and 1936--37 in the Palanpur taluka. The Banas river which flows through the district never gets flooded to a dangerous level. At the worst, floods do not pass more than a mile from the either bank. In the year 1973, the district had heavy and incessant rains from 30th August to 3rd September which were unprecedented in the current century. The extremely heavy rainfall in Rajasthan, area, particularly in the catchment area of the Banas river, resulted in a heavy flood in all the small *nallas* and rivulets. The Danta taluka recorded the highest (629 mm.) rainfall from 30th August to 3rd September, 1973. As a result the river waters crossed the danger mark for the first time. In the district, 198 villages of Palanpur, Vadgam, Danta, Deesa, Kankrej, Radhanpur, Santalpur, and Dhanera talukas were affected. Of them, the village Bhonyan of the Deesa taluka was the worst affected. More than 200 of its 310 houses were completely destroyed by the flood.¹ About 40,465 hectares of area growing Kharif crops was damaged heavily. More than 2.63 lakh people were affected; of them 58 persons lost life.

Several voluntary agencies helped in evacuating persons and provided shelters during the flood period.

Due to the heavy flood, the approach-road to the Dantiwada dam was cut off. The road communication between Palanpur and Deesa, Palanpur and Danta and Deesa and Patan was also cut off and it was impossible to make an immediate survey of the extent of the damage caused by the floods to the economy of the province. The security force was deployed in Kankrej and Radhanpur areas to render service in rescue work.

1. *Yojana*, April 1974.



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CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES

OLD TIME INDUSTRIES

The Banaskantha district from the view point of topography is partly mountainous and partly desolate and has till this day remained industrially backward. There were very few old time industries in the district in existence such as *attar*, gold and silver thread embroidery, cotton ginning and pressing, etc. The industry in past catered to the requirements of this district and other adjoining districts. "The state continued to encourage the manufacture of *Champa* and *Kevda* 'Attars' (perfumed oils), which are of a high quality and for which Palanpur is so well-known.¹

Palanpur State

Gold and silver thread embroidery work as well as the manufacture of velvet boxes were carried on in Palanpur.² With a view to encourage cottage industry, a lacquer work factory had been opened at Palanpur during the State regime. The wool ginning and pressing factory established by Messrs Phiroj and Co., at Deesa also flourished for a long time. Negotiations for starting of an ice factory had been completed and building for the factory had been erected during State regime. The plant had been installed. The State had entered into an agreement with M/s. Kapoor and Co. of Amritsar, for the erection of Isabgul Factory at Palanpur. The factory had been installed and it commenced its work.³

Stone quarrying at Amirgadh and at Chitrasani was done on a large scale. There were lime kilns also. The small town of Kanodar had nearly 1,110 handlooms. This shows that textile industry too flourished in the State. The Tatas had started a vegetable *ghee* factory with a capacity of about 3,000 tons a year at Palanpur. The Government of India had also sanctioned during State regime, the opening of one textile mill with 25,000 spindles and 400 looms but the scheme was later on abandoned.

1. *Summary Report of the Administration of the Palanpur State*, 1941-42, p. 17.

2. *Ibid.*

3. *Summary Report of the Administration of the Palanpur State*, 1945-46, pp. 12-19.



There was a wool ginning and pressing factory at Deesa and a small leather tanning industry at Palanpur.¹ The gold leather work was turned out at Suigam, a village near the Rann on the western border.²

Radhanpur State

Alike Palanpur State, Radhanpur State had also few industries. In order to develop trade and industries, two cotton ginning factories and one press had been opened and the State had abolished the internal customs and remitted the arrears of revenue from the year 1875 to 1904.³ In 1944-45, there were seven cotton ginning factories and one cotton press in the State. There were three flour mills, one match factory, one oil and saw mill and 50 miscellaneous hand grinding snuff mills.⁴

From the foregoing narration it would be observed that industrially the district was extremely backward. This is primarily due to the fact that its sizeable population depended upon agriculture and pastoral activities. Moreover, the State regimes seem to have given very little encouragement to the establishment of a number of industries. Even the contribution of the Palanpur State was not substantial. It was only after the merger of these States into Bombay State that era of industrialisation commenced.

POWER

There were three diesel power stations in Banaskantha district as under prior to the formation of Gujarat State.

Ambaji	..	..	93 KW Capacity
Deesa	..	..	500 KW „
Radhanpur	..	..	151 KW „

After the formation of Gujarat Electricity Board, it was decided to construct bigger power stations at suitable locations and not to construct small diesel or thermal power stations. As such the Board had not constructed any new power stations

1. *Five Year Plan of Banaskantha.*
2. *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V-B, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha* (1905), p. 21.
3. *Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. IV, (1919), p. 29.
4. *Administration Report of the Radhanpur State for the year 1944-45*, p. 16.



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in the district but has laid some transmission lines to bring power from the central generating power station at Dhuvaran and install sub-station for distribution of power in the area. No private power station is now existing in the district.

Presently electricity is being supplied in the district by the Gujarat Electricity Board and also by a private licensee at Palanpur. Power from 132 KV Sidhpur sub-station is supplied to Palanpur on 66 KV lines.

The district is getting power through grid system. The Board has constructed sub-stations in the district as shown in the Statement V.1 given below for transmission and distribution of power:

STATEMENT V.1
Number of Sub-Stations for Transmission and Distribution of Power

Sl. No.	Name of Sub-stations	No. and Capacity of Transformers					
		No.	66/33 KV capacity	No.	66/11 capacity	No.	33/11 capacity
1.	66 KV Palanpur	2	5 MVA	1	10 MVA	...	..
		1	2 MVA				
2.	66 KV Decsa	1	4 MVA	1	10 MVA	..	..
3.	33 KV Deodar	..	..	..	..	1	1 MVA
						1	1.75 MVA
						1	2 MVA
4.	33 KV Danta	..	..	..	..	1	1 MVA
						1	0.5 MVA
5.	33 KV Radhanpur	..	..	..	..	1	1 MVA

Source :

The Secretary, Gujarat Electricity Board, Vadodara.

The connecting load in the district at present is 17,000 KVA whereas the requirements for various purposes is only 14,000 KVA which means that additional power supply is available in the district.

Besides, the utilisation of electricity has shown very rapid increase since the beginning of the Second Five Year Plan. The electricity generated has increased from 6.65 lakhs K.W.H. in 1955-56 to 13.84 lakhs K.W.H. in 1960-61 (approximately two fold increase). Similarly the utilisation of electricity has risen from 5.59 lakhs K.W.H. to 13.61 lakhs K.W.H. during the above period. The utilisation of power for industrial purpose has increased from 0.49 lakhs K.W.H. in 1955-56 to 2.18 lakhs K.W.H. in 1960-61.



Palanpur and Deodar talukas of the district are facing the problem of overloading. Augmentation of Palanpur sub-station is however in progress. Proposals for augmenting Deodar sub-station are also under consideration. In view of this, there may not be shortage of power for industrial purposes at Palanpur and Deodar in future.

Consumption of electricity for the years 1960-61 to 1972-73 is shown in the table given below.

Consumption of Electricity by Purpose for the Years 1960-61 to 1972-73

Years	Domestic consumption	Commercial light and small power	Industrial power	(In million KWH) Other purposes	Total
1960-61	0.630	0.270	0.210	0.240	1.350
1965-66	1.560	*	0.760	2.560	4.880
1970-71	3.980	*	3.340	9.360	16.680
1971-72	1.870	0.577	2.716	15.956	21.119
1972-73	1.894	0.591	3.513	23.286	29.284

* Domestic consumption for 1965-66 and 1970-71 includes commercial light and small power.

Source :

- 1 District Census Handbook, Banaskantha District, 1971.
- 2 The Gujarat Electricity Board, Vadodara.

Rural Electrification

An important object of the Third Five Year Plan was to develop efficient small scale industries in small towns and in rural areas so as to increase employment opportunities, raise incomes and living standards and bring about a more balanced and diversified rural economy. In achieving these objectives, the major limiting factor was the lack of power. With the supply of electricity it is possible to reorganise traditional industries and establish new industries. In this context the scheme of rural electrification assumes importance.

The Progress of Electrification of Number of Villages and Towns

Before 1st Plan	1st Plan '51-56	2nd Plan '56-61	3rd Plan '61-66	Annual Plans '66-69	4th Plan '69-74	End of 4th Five Year Plan
3	—	1	13	53	144	214



From the foregoing table it is observed that it is only after Third Five Year Plan, that rural electrification has assumed importance. At the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan in all 206 villages and 8 towns were electrified.

INDUSTRIES AND MANUFACTURES

Mining and Heavy Industries

The district, situated in north-east part of the Gujarat State, is geologically one of the very important districts. The entire part of the district is composed of *archalm* complex which are the host rocks and very important for the occurrence of different economic minerals viz., the base metal of Amba Mata and Deri areas of the district and good quality of limestone deposits of Shri Amirgadh area. Some head veins are also found to occur in faulted zones near Amirgadh. These minerals have been described in Chapter I. However, the prospects of Amba Mata base metal deposits are described below :

The Amba Mata lead-zinc-copper prospects in the district extend for a length of 2 km. in a north-westerly direction from the outskirts of Ambaji village ($24^{\circ}20'$: $72^{\circ}51'$), falling on the northern side of the Ambaji-Abu Road. It is 23 km. SSE of Abu Road railway station on the Ahmadabad-Delhi metre gauge line of the Western Railway.

Geological Setting¹

The area comprises metasediments of Ajabgrah series (preca-mbrian) of Heron forming the south-western extremity of the Delhi synclinorium. It largely consists of a thick pile of calcareous sediments comprising calcgneiss and limestone which are generally siliceous, with argillitic intercalations. This is separated from the overlying mainly arenaceous sediments by recrystallised marble which is characteristically poor in magnesia. The arenaceous sediments are well developed only at Ambaji and less conspicuously at Jariha ($24^{\circ}22'$: $72^{\circ}52'$), which together form the Ambaji syncline.

1. Government of Gujarat, Director of Geology and Mining.
Mineral Wealth, Vol. No. 5, April-September 1969 (Special Basemetal issue)



Exploration

The main prospect at Ambaji is about 2000 m. long and 600 m. wide. Five sulphide zones have been demarcated based on surface manifestation of mineralisation. They are designated as the northern, central, southern, north-western and south-eastern. In addition, there are two small zones lying immediately south of the main prospect which are also covered by detailed surface studies. Till March 1969, a total of about 2,600 m. had been drilled in 12 boreholes covering a cumulative strike length of 960 m. comprising portions of the northern, central and southern zones in the central part of the main prospect.

At present, base metals, limestone, marble, wollastonite, dolomite, etc., are the main economic minerals which are being exploited commercially in the district.

Minor Minerals

Minor minerals such as marble, sandstone, *kankar*, brick earth, ordinary clay, road metal, other building stones, etc. and major minerals such as limestone, colour-ochre, marble and calcite are available in the district.

The commercial exploitation of the minor and major minerals is shown in the sub-joined Statements V.2 and V.3.



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STATEMENT V.2
Production, Average Number of Persons Employed, total Number of Quarry Leases and Royalty/Dead rent Paid
in the District for the Years 1964 and 1972

(MINOR MINERALS)

1964							1972			
Sl. No.	Minerals		Total number of quarry leases	Production in M. T.	Average number of persons employed	Royalty deadrents paid in Rs	Total number of quarry lease	Production in M. T.	Average number of persons employed	Royalty deadrent paid in Rs.
1.	Marble	..	N. A.	7,140	53	N. A.	20	1,272	141	30,697
2.	Sandstone	..	N. A.	4	N. A.	N. A.	..	..	..	..
3.	Kankar	..	N. A.	16	N. A.	N. A.	1	1,938	12	692
4.	Brick-Earth	..	N. A.	6,772	320	N. A.	..	4,85,000	82	4,850
5.	Ordinary clay	..	N. A.	125	5	N. A.	...	100	2	100
6.	Road metal	..	N. A.	1,300	N. A.	N. A.	5	51,630	228	36,096
7.	Other building stone	..	..	..	..	..	1	8,348	42	8,231
8.	Gravel	..	..	..	..	..	..	800	5	400
9.	Limestone	..	..	..	..	..	9	9,199	77	6,535
10.	Murum	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,000	6	500
11.	Ordinary sand	..	..	..	..	..	..	200	3	150
12.	Bentonite	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
13.	Red clay	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..

Source :

Director of Geology and Mining, Ahmadabad.

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1981 -Banaskantha District Gazetteers Gujarat State (1317)

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STATEMENT V.3
Production, Average Number of Persons Employed, total Number of Mining Leases and Royalty/Dead rent Paid
in the District for the Years 1964 and 1972

(Major Minerals)

Sl. No.	Mineral	1964				1972 (Provisional)			
		Total number of Mining leases	Production in M. T.	Average number of persons employed	Royalty/- deadrent paid in Rs.	Total number of Mining leases	Production in M. T.	Average number of persons employed	Royalty/- deadrent paid in Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Limestone ..	1	9,272	36	3,033	3	15,325	44	18,500
2.	Colour-Ochre ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	350
3.	Marble ..	2	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	2	827(B) 2,179(R)	69	16,637

NOTE : B= Block, R = Rubble.

Source : Director of Geology and Mining, Ahmadabad.

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Mining Leases

The table given below shows the mining leases which were granted up to 31-3-1972 :

Name of the Taluka	Name of the village	Mineral	Mining leases
Danta ..	Zarivav	Lime-stone	3
Dhanera ..	Ganguvada-Dari	..	..
Danta ..	Zarivav-Kumbharia	Marble	2
Santalpur ..	Dhokwada	Colour-ochre	1

Source :

Banaskantha Jilla Audhyogic Parisamvad, Palanpur (1973), p. 54.

INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE

Industrially, the district is very backward. As compared to other districts of the Gujarat State, the hostile terrain coupled with lack of facilities have thwarted the progress of industrialisation. In 1963, the district had 22 factories employing 402 workers. In 1968-69 it had only 19 factories with 437 workers on their rolls. Moreover, the concentration of industries is mostly in Palanpur-Deesa area and most of these industries are based on raw materials available locally i. e. cotton ginning and pressing factories, pottery products, local mineral-based industries, etc. From the point of view of analysis the industrial structure in the district can be broadly classified into two sectors, the small scale sector and unorganised cottage sector. There is one unit in the large scale sector. Cottage industries excepting the woollen and handloom centres of Palanpur and Kanodar have been pursuing the precarious existence. There were approximately 220 small scale units registered with the Directorate of Industries in 1972. In 1970 there were only 135 units. In 1972 these units provided employment to 900 workers. The industry-wise break-up of small scale sector in 1972 is given in the sub-joined Statement V.4.



STATEMENT V.4

Industry-wise Break-up for the Year 1972

Sl. No.	Type of industries	No. of units
1. Food		21
2. Tobacco		3
3. Textiles		24
4. Wood		16
5. Paper and paper products		8
6. Leather industries		3
7. Rubber and its products		7
8. Chemicals		10
9. Glass, clay and cement		17
10. Non-ferrous metal		11
11. Ferrous metal		19
12. Machinery except electrical machinery and transport equipments		55
13. Machinery and transport equipment		5
14. Others		21
Total		220

Source : **सत्यमेव जयते**
Small Industries Service Institute, Ministry of Industrial Development
(Government of India), Ahmadabad, *Industrial Opportunities in Banaskantha District* (Gujarat State), (1973), pp. 15-16.

It would be observed from the Statement V.4 that district had following industries viz., machinery except electrical machinery and transport equipment, textiles, food, glass, clay and cement, wood, etc. In the unorganised cottage sector there were few units in diamond polishing, *bidi*, book binding, etc.

The detailed analysis about the possibilities of establishing new industries has been made in the section on "Industrial Potential and Plan for Future Development" of this chapter. The industries which show signs of expansion are potato products, weaving and processing of cloth, tiles making, oil engines and electric motor repairing, black-smithy, etc. A number of industries have been suggested which are mainly agro-based, livestock-based and service industries. Industrialisation of this district is possible with the financial help available



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from the various banks, financial institutions and the development corporations. On account of financial assistance number of industries will be established in the district, which besides making use of raw materials will provide employment to local population.

Apart from the analysis of industrial structure the description of the following industries¹ would give a more comprehensive picture of the industrial development in the district.

Manufacture of Ornamental and Jewellery Boxes

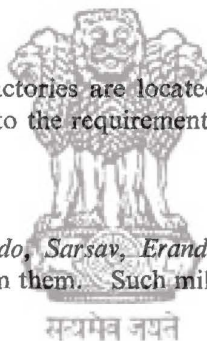
At Palanpur there are few factories which manufacture wooden and paper boxes to store the articles like fountain pen, instruments and jewellery.

Soap

The soap making factories are located at Palanpur, Deesa and Radhanpur. They cater to the requirements of the local population.

Oil Mills

In the district *Raydo, Sarsav, Erand*, etc. are grown. Some of the mills extract oil from them. Such mills are located at Palanpur and Deesa.



Metal for Road

Some portion of the district i. e. Danta taluka and portions of Palanpur and Dhanera talukas is mountainous. Number of factories are engaged in stone crushing in Palanpur and Danta talukas. They prepare metal for the construction of roads. There are some hilly areas in Tharad and Santalpur talukas which are also being exploited for metal.

Powerloom and Handloom

The district is known for powerloom and handloom industries, Kanodar, Palanpur, Memadpur, Chhapi and Navisana are important weaving centres. Detailed description of handloom industry of Kanodar is given separately in the chapter.

1. *Commissioner of Industries, Audhyogic Ruprekha, Banaskantha Jillo, (1971).*



Cement and Allied Items

Number of factories are located at Deesa, Palanpur and Vadgam talukas which manufacture cement pipes, perforated windows and water stands. A medium size factory also exists at Deesa which manufactures cement pipes.

Manufacture of Leather Goods and Picker Bands

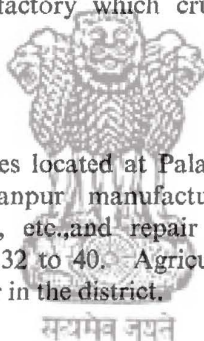
A factory exists at Palanpur which manufactures picker bands and other articles.

Bone Crushing Mill

One medium size factory which crushes bones is located at Deesa.

Engineering Industries

Some of the factories located at Palanpur, Deesa, Vadgam, Shihori, Chhapi and Radhanpur manufacture steel cupboard, steel chairs, windows, doors, etc., and repair oil engines, tractors, etc. They numbered between 32 to 40. Agricultural implements are also manufactured at Palanpur in the district.



Marble Stone

The area in the vicinity of Ambaji is known for marble stone. A factory has been started at Ambaji which cuts and polishes such stones.

Mozaic Tiles

Some factories exist at Palanpur and Deesa which manufacture Mozaic tiles.

Limestone

Near Amirgadh from Divania mountain lime tone deposits are available. One factory has been started at Amirgadh for making quick lime and mortar and another is likely to be started at Surana in future.



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Printing

There are 15 to 20 presses engaged in printing work at Palanpur, Deesa, Radhanpur and Bhabhar.

Saw Mills

In the district, there are 15 to 20 saw mills. They are mainly located at Palanpur, Deesa, Radhanpur, Dhanera, Bhildi, Chhapi and Vadgam.

Diamond Cutting

The work of diamond cutting has acquired importance of late in the district. At Palanpur, from rough stones diamonds are cut and polished.

Apart from the industries mentioned above, one plastic factory also exists at Palanpur which manufactures plastic handles for umbrellas. The craft of making perfumery also caters to the requirements of local and Gujarat State population.

INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

The 1961 Census made a beginning in systematising the enumeration of the industrial establishments and the number of persons employed. In the 1971 Census also, only data about selected industries have been collected. These are tabulated in Statement V.5. The types of industrial establishments in existence in the Banaskantha district and the employment provided by them are briefly analysed below.

The total number of industrial establishments increased from 1,417, to 7,547 or 532.65 per cent and the number of persons employed rose from 3,677 to 13,636 or 370.85 per cent during the period 1961--71.

There is thus a fourfold increase in industrial establishments and threefold increase in employment in the industries in the district in a decade. Cotton textiles and preparation of ready-made wearing apparel are the main industries followed by leather goods and foot-

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wear and those producing food products. However, use of bakery products, *bidi* smoking, use of furniture articles, cycle and cycle accessories, etc., indicate the shift towards modern living.

All the same, the process of development of large scale industries does not appear to have dawned in this district. Given certain infrastructure facilities, metal based industries could be established if the mineral rich tracks near Ambaji is commercially exploited.

STATEMENT V.5

Selected Industrial Establishments, 1971

Sl. No. 1	Major Group of Industry 2	Total No. of establishments 3	No. of persons engaged. 4
1.	Manufacture of cotton textiles ..	1,636	3,650
2.	Manufacture of leather, leather and fur products (except repair)	1,277	2,038
3.	Manufacture of textile products (including wearing apparel, other than footwear)	1,256	1,719
4.	Manufacture of wood and wood products, furniture and fixtures.	1,112	1,667
5.	Manufacture of non-metallic mineral products ..	754	1,594
6.	Manufacture of food products ..	841	1,538
7.	Other manufacturing industries ..	671	1,430
	Total ..	7,547	13,636

Source :

Census of India 1971, Administrative Atlas, Part X-A, Gujarat, (1972), p. 48.

THE TRENDS OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The extent of industrial development that has taken place in the district has been examined previously. A fairly good account of the extent of industrialisation can be had by comparing decade's statistics. The trends of industrial development during 1960 to 1970 in the district are reflected in the number of factories and



workers compared in Statement V.6 given at the end of the Chapter. It will be observed that during the period of 1960 to 1965, the total number of factories had decreased from 20 to 18. However, during the same period the workers engaged in these factories rose from 510 to 532. The comparison of next quinquennium would reveal that the number of factories which was 18 in 1965 increased to 21 in 1970. Strangely the total number of workers employed decreased from 532 in 1965 to 490 in 1970.

A significant conclusion which emerges from this study is that industrial development in the district is uneven. From the view point of employment the most important units were manufacture and repairs of motor vehicles (213)¹, non-metallic mineral products (131), manufacture of made up textile goods (except wearing apparel) (59) and manufacture of industries (not elsewhere classified) (43). From the view point of number of units the most important units were manufacture and repairs of motor vehicles (7)² non-metallic mineral products (6), and Jewellery (2). The statement indicates directions of growth in which industrialisation has taken place in the district. It also points out that it is extremely backward and requires tremendous efforts to boost the industrialisation.

LARGE SCALE FACTORIES

In the district there are no other large scale factories excepting the Banas Dairy. With the establishment of Banas Dairy impetus has been given to the industrialisation of the district. The operational data of the Dairy are examined below.

The Banas Dairy, Palanpur

The Banaskantha District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Limited was established in 1969 and registered under Gujarat Co-operative Societies Act on 30th January, 1969. It had started the work of milk collection from November, 1969 with 75 milk co-operative societies. The adjoining area with Mahesana district was taken first as all milk collected in raw condition was delivered to Dudhsagar Dairy, Mahesana.

1. Figures in brackets indicate the number of workers.
2. Figures in brackets indicate the number of factories.



Under 'Operation Flood Programme' of Government of India, Indian Dairy Corporation, Baroda, has given Rs. 1,45,00,000 as a grant and member co-operative milk producer's societies have purchased shares worth Rs. 5,18,800.

The union authorities have purchased properties of M/s., Palanpur Vegetable Products Limited, (now in liquidation) with buildings, water supply system, 122 acres of land and railway siding. It had occupied the present premises in March, 1971 and execution of the project was started thereafter.

The part of machineries have been imported through the Indian Dairy Corporation, while rest of the machineries are of indigenous make. The powder plant of the union has been erected by M/s., Stainco Industries, Faridabad, and it is of fully indigenous make and technical know-how. The cost of plant and machineries amounted to Rs. 1,32,45,860.

In 1973-74, the fixed capital was Rs. 25,00,000 and the working capital was Rs. 5,18,800. In the same year, it had provided employment to 350 persons and disbursed Rs. 9,41,643 as wages and salaries. It produced Banas Ghee, white butter, cassein, cream pasturised milk and butter milk. The following table shows the progress of the co-operative union:—

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Year	No. of societies	No. of members (app.)	Share Capital (Rs.)	Milk Collection (litres in lacs)	Value of milk and milk products sold (Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1969-70	75	1,500	1,80,500	17.68	17.57
1970-71	108	7,000	3,80,600	61.56	65.48
1971-72	288	13,000	3,95,900	113.72	116.12
1972-73	350	24,000	4,88,100	201.89	207.40
1973-74	358	26,000	5,18,800	122.85	180.04

Source : *An Introduction, Banas Dairy, Palanpur.*

Indian Dairy Corporation has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 49,00,000 to the union. The union has already purchased the land for the cattle feed factory and machineries. The union has started the factory which has commenced the production of concentrated cattlefeed.



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At present, cattle feed is being purchased from the co-operative organisations such as AMUL and DUDHSAGAR and distributed the same to its members on no profit no loss basis.

SMALL SCALE AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

In the district it has been seen that there has been very little industrial development. It would be interesting to examine the growth of small scale and cottage industries stage-wise. Since complete data regarding the distribution of small scale and cottage industries in the district are not available, the results of the two surveys carried out by the Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Gujarat are summarised below, as they indicate the stages of development in these sectors of industry. The first survey was undertaken in all the districts of State except the Dangs and was spread over two years, 1959-60 and 1960-61. It aimed at (i) obtaining districtwise estimates of income of families in selected cottage and small scale industries, and (ii) collecting information on other related aspects such as employment, production and consumption of raw materials.

An 'establishment' was classified as cottage industry, if the number of persons engaged in it on any day during the year was 9 or less. If the number was 10 or more and the unit was not registered under the Factories Act, the establishment was classified as a small scale establishment whether it was power operated or not. ordinarily industrial units employing 10 or more workers and using power should be registered under the Factories Act. However, if at the time of the inquiry, such a units was not registered, it was included in the survey.¹

For the purpose of survey, the centres were classified into strata A, B and C. Stratum 'A' was related to the centres important for different industries. Stratum 'B' to urban areas other than those covered by 'A' and stratum 'C' consisted of groups of 4 to 5 villages in the rest of the rural areas from which about 4 per cent of the group of villages were selected for the purposes of survey. The Statement V.7 given at the end of the chapter shows the distribution of establishments, power, no power and employment.

1. *Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. II No. 1 January-March, 1962, p-1 B-469-21



Distribution of Establishments by Industry

There were in all 10,930 establishments in the 16 industries surveyed in the district. They were in the cottage sector. There were no small scale establishments in the district.

Power vs. No Power

Out of 10,930 establishments, only 11 (0.1 per cent) establishments were operated with power and 10,919 (99.9 per cent) were operated without power.

Employment

The total number of persons employed was 26,326 out of whom 22,544 (86.0 per cent) were household persons and 3,782 (14.0 per cent) were outsiders. Taking the number of establishments into consideration, it would be observed that important industries were leather working and tanning (5,503), bricks and tiles (4,051), weaving (3,386), other potteries (3,361), gur making (3,216), carpentry (3,047) and metal works (2,024).

Though comparable data is not available to assess the progress of development of small scale and cottage industries in the district on the lines of survey of 1960-61, the Listing Survey of small industries would prove useful in giving some idea of the development.

Small Industries in Unorganised Sector in Urban Areas

The Bureau of Economics and Statistics carried out in 1969-70 the Listing Survey of Small Industries in the unorganised sector of the urban areas of the district under the centrally sponsored scheme which was included in the Fourth Five Year Plan.

The industrial unit was defined as any unit engaged in production other than agriculture, processing, repairs and industrial servicing. The units rendering personal services were excluded (e. g. laundries, hotels, dispensaries, etc.).

The units were further classified as units using power and units not using power. The unit was considered to be using power,



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if any kind of motive power was used directly or indirectly in the process of production. The data in the district was collected from the following 4 urban centres, viz, (i) Deesa, (2) Palanpur (3) Radhanpur and (4) Tharad.

From the Statement V.8 given at the end of the chapter, it would be observed that there were 128 industrial units employing 5 or more workers in the district providing employment to 930 persons. Of the 128 units, 96 were found using power, while 32 were not using powers. Of the 128 units, 107 were organised by proprietorship, 19 by partnership and 1 each by co-operative society and others.

Both from the view point of employment and number it may be noted that following units deserve mention viz., manufacture of jewellery and related articles, tobacco manufacturers; manufacture of structural clay products.

INDUSTRIALS ESTATES

Industrial estates were set-up in the country towards the end of the First Five Year Plan with the object of assisting the industries in the small scale sector by creating conditions favourable to working efficiency, maintenance of uniform standards in production and economic utilisation of materials and equipments. The principal objective is to enable a number of small scale units to have the advantage of common service and other facilities such as a good site, electricity, water, gas, steam, compressed air, railway siding, watch and ward, etc. Theoretically, industrial estates provide a powerful instrument of industrial growth. In practice, however, their effectiveness depend largely upon the planning, execution and operation of the programme.

The Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation has one industrial estate at Palanpur. The Corporation has provided roads, water and power supply. There are in all 35 sheds out of which 10 have been occupied. The total capital investment of the estate in November, 1974 was Rs. 8.28 lakhs. The Estate provided the employment to 79 percent. Out of 10 industries, 6 were engineering concerns, 1 was paper products, two allied agricultural activities and one aluminium utensils. The products manufactured in the sheds were oil, automobile spare parts, engineering goods, aluminium products



etc. The sheds have been allotted on hire purchase basis. The price is Rs. 180 per sq. yard of built up area. Some amount is also charged for development of the land. The buyer has to first pay 25 per cent cost and the remaining amount is payable in 10 years with interest at 9 per cent in monthly instalments. The land is on 99 years' lease. Maintenance of the same is the responsibility of the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation.

In addition to this estate, another industrial estate is established at Deesa in collaboration with the District Panchayat by the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation. Another industrial estate is also likely to be established in the vicinity of Ambaji. This industrial estate is called Marble Industrial Estate.

INDUSTRIAL ARTS

Perfumery at Palanpur¹

Introduction

Use of perfumes, scented oils and paste, powder, etc. is known to the people of the district since ancient times. The art of producing perfumes is called perfumery. The ingredients can be natural and synthetic. The natural products are derived from plant and animal sources while synthetic product are derived from chemical substances. The art is known to Indians since ages. Palanpur, is the only centre in Gujarat State where perfumes are prepared from natural products. Palanpur is known as a town of fragrance. Regular forests of *kevda*, *champaks* and *mogra* are grown in the surrounding areas. It is the only town in the State, where natural scents are manufactured on a commercial scale.

Crafts and Craftsmen

The only family engaged in perfumery work at Palanpur belongs to Daudi Vohra community and follows Muslim religion. This family migrated from Udaipur, a town in Rajasthan State, and settled at Palanpur 100 to 125 years ago. Their settlement at Palanpur is purely for economic reasons connected with the

¹ *Census of India, 1961, Selected Crafts of Gujarat, Perfumery of Palanpur, Vol. V, Part VII-A.*



business. For social purposes they go to Udaipur where the head of the household, their aged father resides. It has been manufacturing perfumery since the last 105 years. Their ancestors learned the technique of manufacturing natural scents at Baroda from the concern of 'Ibrahim Sultanji Attarwala' also of Udaipur under whom they were serving. The skill acquired by the members of family engaged in this craft is hereditary. Besides the workshop at Palanpur they have also *attar* manufacturing unit at Ahir Naglana in Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh where roses grow in abundance. They go there for three to four weeks in March every year, when roses are collected and perfume made.

The only household engaged in perfumery making at Palanpur consists of 14 members and is a joint family. Of the 14 members 4 adult males are engaged in the craft and the rest are non-workers. Out of 10 non-workers, 3 male and 3 female children are studying and four females are engaged in household work. Family members carry on the work of the craft. Hired workers are engaged when the work load is heavy.

Raw Materials

Natural perfumes are the product of plant metabolism and their highest form is found in the scent of fresh flowers. The raw materials required and used at Palanpur are as follows :

A Gulab (*Rosa alba*), Kevda (*Pandanus odoratissimus*), Champa (*Michelia champaca*), Mogra (*Fasminum arborscena*), Borsali (*Mimusops elingi*), Jui (*Fasminum auriculatum*), Ratrani (*Cestrum nocturnum*), and Chameli (*Fasminum auriculatum*).

B Grass : Khas (*Andropogon squarrosus*).

C Leaves : Pandadi.

D Others : Mati, Hina.

The other raw materials required in the process are (i) water, (ii) sandalwood oil, (iii) colours, (iv) fuel, and (v) packing material.



Among the various perfumes used, rose, *kevdo* and *champak* may be mentioned in the order of their popularity.

Tools and Technique

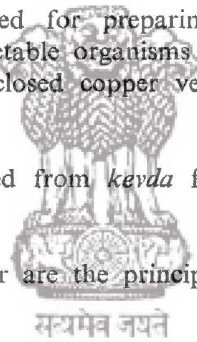
Perfumery is an art as well as a science. The perfumer's art is based not on a native ability, however, but on experience. A trained perfumer can recognise by odour a thousand different ingredients and often tell their source and quality as well.

The method of production employed is traditional which is known as distillation.

The method employed for preparing floral oil is that of distillation in which vegetable organisms like flowers, grass, leaves, etc., are boiled in the closed copper vessel known as distillation still.

Perfumes are prepared from *kevda* flowers by the method of distillation.

Rose and *kevda* water are the principal aromatic waters manufactured at Palanpur.



Finished Products

Attars are filled in various sizes of phials which can contain 1½ grams, 3 grams and 12 grams of liquid. The phials are further packed in cardboard boxes each of which contains three or six bottles at a time or sometimes only one. Finished products to be sent to distant places are filled in *kupis* or leather bottles of various sizes having capacity of 3 tolas, 5 tolas, 10 tolas, 21 tolas, 50 tolas and 100 tolas. The *kevda* and rose water are filled in big bottles having a capacity of one and half pounds. The phials, bottles and cardboard boxes are finely labelled bearing the description of *attar* trade mark, name of the manufacturer, etc. The registered trade mark for perfumes, scent, etc., is A. A. A. which is an abbreviation of the firm's name styled 'Akbarali Abdulhussein Attarwala.'



Handloom Industry

In the district the handloom cotton weaving industry is popular since olden times. Before 1870 the handloom industry used to cater to the requirements of local population of Kanodar and the adjoining areas of the Banaskantha district and Rajasthan. At that time there were no difficulties in regard to procurement of raw materials, market, etc. and hence the industry thrived. The principal types of fabrics woven were Khaddar (Gaji), Saris, petty coat's cloth, towels, bed covers and head dress. Kanodar head wear known as 'Thobh' used by the Arabs was well-known. At the end of 19th century indigenous colours manufactured from vegetable plants were used. During this period, a great turn came in the development of this industry. Mill yarn in great quantity came to be poured in from the mills of Ahmadabad, which the weavers began to use¹.

Further impetus to this industry was provided in 1914-18 during the First World War. As the prices of cloth increased substantially, handloom weavers began to acquire substantial profit from this industry. During this period Mashru cloth became popular among the people. The market for the manufacture of woven cloth also increased as cloth began to be exported to Kheda, Bharuch, Surat, Panchmahals and even to Ratlam, Bombay and Nasik. During 1920-38 the industry made rapid strides. Instead of yarn of 20 counts, yarn of 30-40 counts began to be used. Moreover mercerised yarn from Japan was also easily available. Weavers of Kanodar began to use this yarn and started weaving different varieties of cloth. The cloth now began to be exported to Africa. The Chofal cloth of Kanodar became very popular throughout Saurashtra and Gujarat. During the Second World War also the industry sustained its development. However, the shortage of cotton yarn began to be experienced.

From 1945 to 1958 there was control on cotton yarn. However, as the yarn was available in black market the industry could manage to survive.

From 1952 onwards however the industry has received some set back. It has survived from this period onwards mainly due to Government efforts.

¹ MUKHI N. M., *Banaskantha Jilano Hathshal Udhog. Arthic Samiksha, Gujarat Vidyapith, 1958.*



Present Development of Handloom Industry

It will be pertinent to describe the present conditions of the industry. Most of the weavers at present dwell in Palanpur and Vadgam talukas of the district. Kanodar, Palanpur, Mahamedpura Chhapi, and Navisana are the important handloom weaving centres. Most of the weavers are working in the above centres which are located within a distance of 10 to 15 miles from Palanpur. The weavers are mostly Momin weavers and Harijan weavers. Harijan weavers are engaged in producing cloth from the yarn of 10 to 20 counts while the Momin weavers of Kanodar weave all types of fabrics of handloom, varying from coarsest cloth to finest malmal in attractive designs and colours.

Tools and Technique

The tools and implements used in handloom weaving are traditional instruments, the chief among them being the ordinary throw shuttle pit loom. The other articles include *firki*, *charkha* and *nari* (નારી).

The weaving process is simple. After obtaining mill spun white cotton yarn in packets of 10 kgs. each from the market, all the hanks are separated from the bunches and are dipped in cold water for two days. Thereafter the yarn is coloured and subsequently it is starched. The second stage is the wrapping of yarn. It is done with the help of *charkha* or spinning wheel and the yarn for the warp is taken on *firki* or reel. Threads of different colours are taken on different reels and pirns according to requirements. The weaving is done on throw-shuttle pit loom. The warp is spread over the loom keeping the warp beam at the farthest end from the weaver. The lease-rods are put in warp spread over the weaving field. The craftsman sits with weaver's beam over his thigh and legs in the pit over *Pavdi* or tradle. As soon as weaving is completed, the cloth is taken away from the loom and the loose ends of the threads on both ends are tied and the piece is ready for the sale.

Finished Products

A number of things such as sarees *dhotis*, towels, bed sheets, *lungis*, cloth for suitings and shirtings, etc., are woven. Apart



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from the simple varieties of cloth special variety of cloth called 'Handloom Terry cotton' is also prepared. The difference in these varieties lies in the raw materials used. The prices and other details of the articles are given below :

Sl. No.	Name of the articles	Price of the article in Rs.
1.	Saree	7 to 12
2.	Dhoti	16 to 20
3.	Bed-sheet	5 to 16
4.	Towel	2 to 5.50
5.	Lungi	11 to 12
6.	Shirting cloth	7 to 10 (per metre)

The products are sent to Saurashtra, Rajasthan and Surat district of the Gujarat State. Some portion of the cloth is consumed in Kanodar and nearby areas.

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Economic Characteristics

The craftsmen invest their own capital. A small establishment may keep raw materials worth about Rs. 500 to 700. Each unit has got its own house with a workshop (workshop-cum-dwelling).

The artisan works eight to ten hours a day during the period from October to May. The four monsoon months of June to September are considered as months of slack season. Mostly family members are engaged. During the course of survey it was observed that there were 500 houses engaged in weaving giving employment to 1,500 persons.

The rate of wages paid to a weaver hired on labour was between Rs. 2 to 3 per one *takka*. The total value of annual production at Kanodar was about Rs. 45 lakhs in March, 1975.



Diamond Industry

In past India used to import sizable quantities of cut and polished diamonds for domestic consumption. The import in pre-war days used to be approximately of 10 million rupees which expanded to 31 million rupees in 1947-48. With the introduction of quota system and gradual encouragement to import of rough diamonds, the diamond industry grew rapidly in the country. The Banaskantha district also participated in the growth of this industry as majority of the Jhaveries (Jewellers) belong to Palanpur. The labour intensive character of diamond industry has contributed to the growth of the industry. There are in all 150 factories in the district. It is one of the most paying cottage industry requiring a small capital with workmen of average skill. The cutters are mainly jobbers working mostly in units of 10 to 15 persons. The equipment is simple. The industry flourished on a large scale in 1967-68 in the district. However, of late it has suffered set-back on account of recession. In the Palanpur Industrial Estate one unit of 25 diamond cutters at the cost of Rs. 12 lakhs has started functioning. If the industry would develop, it would provide sufficient employment to artisans.

INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL AND PLAN FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT¹

The present policy of Government is directed towards well-balanced industrial development of all the districts of the State. For this purpose a close study of the existing resources and facilities is essential. In this section the potentialities as are and would be available for development have been brought out. As discussed earlier, the agricultural, live-stock and mineral resources can contribute substantially towards industrial development. Agro-based and agro-oriented industries, live-stock based industries and mineral-based industries have good scope in the district. In addition to these, resources oriented industries, and manufacture of consumer products which are highly essential in the present day economy can also be taken up by prospective entrepreneurs. Among consumer items, plastic products assume great importance in view of the development of petro-chemical complex

1. (a) Government of India, Small Industries Service Institute, Ministry of Industrial Development, *Industrial Opportunities in Banaskantha District, Gujarat State*, Ahmadabad, (1973)

(b) *Master Plan for Industrialisation of Bombay State*, (1960).



in the State. There is also considerable scope for service oriented industries.

AGRO-BASED AND AGRO-ORIENTED INDUSTRIES

Surgical Cotton

Low staple cotton, cotton waste and linters can be profitably used for manufacture of surgical cotton. Surgical cotton, also known as absorbent cotton wool is mainly used for medical purposes. Raw ginned cotton is purified and sterilized by chemical process and is rendered hydrophile in character, besides making it free from other external organic impurities. There is a very good demand in the State as well as in the country. It has also got good export potential. The demand for surgical cotton in the State alone is estimated at Rs. 17 lakhs. There are three units already engaged in the manufacture of surgical cotton in the State. However, there is a considerable scope for some more units to come up. In view of the increase in the number of hospitals, clinics, etc. the demand for surgical cotton is bound to increase further in the coming years. There is scope for one unit at Kanodar. It offers strategic locational advantages in view of the availability of cotton in its vicinity. For a plant with a daily capacity of one tonne, the capital requirements would be about Rs. 8 lakhs.

The Establishment of Banaskantha Spinning Mills

The Banaskantha District Co-operative Spinning Mills (Ltd.) Palanpur has applied on 4th February, 1973 for a licence to establish a spinning mill. It was proposed to establish a cotton spinning mill with 25,000 spindles in the co-operative sector in the district. The mill would operate on these spindles for three shifts on 310 working days. The mill would have total fixed asset amounting to Rs. 2.25 crores and would be established at Palanpur.

Processing of Isabgul

This district produces considerable quantity of Isabgul every year. The main centre in the district is Palanpur. Isabgul is sometimes exported abroad and at present it is utilised for the manufacture of certain pharmaceutical preparations. Isabgul has good medicinal properties



for curing all types of stomach ailments. It finds application in the manufacture of Ayurvedic medicines. Though processing is carried on at present in the district, there is scope for further expansion. The product has good demand prospects throughout the country and abroad. Units can be preferably set up at Palanpur or Chhapi which enjoy some advantages in regard to availability of raw material, transport, etc. An economic unit with an installed production capacity of 5 tonnes per month would require an investment of about Rs. 50,000.

Processing Plant for Isabgul Husk

Scheme to organise a processing plant for preparing Isabgul Husk (*Psyllium Husk*) in Palanpur and Vadgam talukas of Banaskantha district is feasible.

A rapid survey of the agricultural and marketing conditions of this commodity has shown that the interests of the agricultural producers and those of the mercantile processors are poles apart and that each section tries to benefit itself at the cost of other. Secondly the agriculturists are not materially interested to increase their acreage under this commodity. The Planning Commission has rightly declared that the benefits of efficiency and economy in the processing activities are considerable and if they are transmitted to cultivators there will be an incentive for increasing production. This can best be done if the agriculturists are made partners in the processing of husk. In view of this factor there is scope for organising a co-operative processing society for Isabgul, which is the chief cash crop of these two talukas of the district. The agriculturists of Palanpur and Vadgam talukas can be its members. They would be obliged to grow Isabgul as prescribed by the society from time to time and to sell all their Isabgul to this society only. It will have to be seen that no new licences for factories are issued or renewed in the area of operation of this society with a view to guarantee a constant supply of Isabgul to the proposed factory. Arrangement would also have to be made through the Ambassador at New York for the disposal of this husk which involves very great risks in view of the perishable nature of this husk.

Guar Gum

Recent scientific research has opened out new avenues for uti-



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lisation of gum from Guar seeds. Guar gum has good export demand. Seeds containing gum are exported to a large extent every year, while the processed materials are imported involving avoidable drain on foreign exchange reserve. The availability of Guar seeds in the district indicates good scope for starting a unit to manufacture Guar gum. This is mainly used in textile, paper, pharmaceutical and printing industries. A plant with a monthly capacity of 75 tonnes of Guar gum would require a capital outlay of about Rs. 10 lakhs.

Potato Processing

De-hydration of potato is a promising industry offering opportunities to entrepreneurs. The district has a profuse supply of potatoes which are at present either consumed in the district for culinary purposes or sent to other districts for internal consumption. The river bed of Banas near Deesa is being utilised for potato cultivation on a very large scale. A part of existing supply can be used for industrial purposes. De-hydrated potatoes have considerable demand prospects not only in the civil market but also in the defence establishment. Export market can also be tapped. An economic unit with a daily capacity of processing 2 tonnes would require an investment of about Rs. 2 lakhs. The plant can be established preferably at Deesa.

Potato Starch

Potato starch finds application in the textile industries as a sizing material. The potatoes available in the district can be conveniently utilised for the manufacture of this product. A unit manufacturing 300 tonnes of starch per annum can be established with an investment of about Rs. 2.05 lakhs.

Cotton Seed Oil

Cotton seed oil finds application as a substitute for coconut and groundnut oil for a variety of purposes. Existing available surplus can be exploited with advantage. Manufacture of cotton seed flour from defatted cake can also be attempted. Better quality of oil is obtained, if the seeds are delinted and decorticated before their extraction. The products have both general and export demand. The investment requirement for a small scale unit would be Rs. 5 lakhs.

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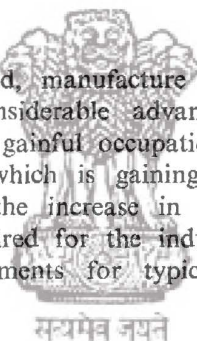


Cattle Feed

Balanced cattle feed commands growing demand in view of the emphasis being laid for increasing the milk yield of cattle. The district has a high density of cattle population and consequently the demand for cattle feed emanating from the area is considerable. At present, there are no units manufacturing this item in the district and the requirements are met out of supplies from outside. Entrepreneurs can confidently enter this field. The raw materials required for the industry viz., groundnut cake, rice bran, wheat bran, etc. are available in the district itself. The investment requirements for a unit would be about Rs. 1 lakh. However, of late the Banas Dairy has proposed to start a cattle feed plant.

Poultry Feed

Similar to cattle feed, manufacture of poultry feed can also be attempted with considerable advantage. Poultry farming is becoming popular as a gainful occupation. The deep litter system of poultry keeping, which is gaining ground is a favourable factor contributing to the increase in demand for poultry feed. The raw materials required for the industry are locally available. The investment requirements for typical unit would be about Rs. 1 lakh.



Cold Storage

There is good scope for establishing a cold storage plant preferably at Palanpur. There is none at present in the district. Potato and similar agricultural produce harvested abundantly during the peak season are often disposed of at cheap prices for fear of perishability. They can find better returns if scientific storage arrangements are made for them. The loss due to spoilage on account of the perishable nature of the commodities can also be minimised. A plant with an investment of Rs. 6 lakhs would be an ideal proposition.

Gur Making

Another industry which can be profitably developed in the district is gur making. The sugarcane cultivation in the district



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is now done on a large scale. It covers an area of 1,200 hectares and its outturn was 5,400 tonnes in 1972-73. With the construction of Dantivada dam, prospects of the sugarcane cultivation are better. Increased sugarcane cultivation can result in establishment of gur industry. It may be mentioned that gur industry thrived during the time of Palanpur State. The State had called experts from Uttar Pradesh who taught the farmers the process of gur making from the sugarcane.

Agricultural Implements

Banaskantha district is predominantly an agricultural area where more than 50 per cent of the working population is dependent on agriculture. Agricultural implements such as ploughs, seed drills, harrows, thrashers, hoes, weeders, etc. can find extensive application in the area. At present, there is no organised unit manufacturing agricultural implements in the district and the requirements are largely met out of supplies from outside. There is scope for new units to come up in this field. An investment of about Rs. 3 lakhs may be required for setting up a unit.

LIVE STOCK-BASED INDUSTRY

Dairy and Dairy Products

The district has a large number of cattle mostly consisting of cows and she-buffaloes which have a high yield of milk. The Kankrej variety is known for its yield. The milk available from the cattle is at present collected individually on co-operative basis for distribution to the consumers in and around the district. It is reported that there is considerable surplus which can be channelised for industrial exploitation. There is scope for establishing a dairy which can take up milk products which can be catered to a wider market with better returns. It is gratifying to note that proposals have materialised and a dairy has been started.

Bone Meal

As a phosphatic fertiliser, bone meal finds extensive use in agriculture as manure. Banaskantha district being predominantly agricultural requires large quantities of fertilisers. The district has



a good supply of bones from both fallen and slaughtered animals. Bone meal manufactured by crushing the raw bones can find good market. The investment requirements for a unit is about Rs. 1 lakh.

Leather Tanning

The district has a good supply of hides and skins. A part of the current supply is at present processed in the district itself by units operating in cottage sector, the balance being exported to other States.

The cottage units in the district undertake tanning and the methods followed are crude. There is considerable scope for organizing production on scientific lines. There is good demand for finished leather in the State and in view of the availability of suitable hides in the district, there is scope for new units. A unit can be established with an investment of Rs. 1.5 lakhs.

Glue from Tannery Waste

Animal glue manufactured from fleshings, hides and trimmings, finds use in the production of wall paper, sizing of textiles manufacture of imitation leather, ivory products, matches, insecticides, etc. The waste available from the cottage tanning units in the district can be conveniently put into use for glue manufacture. A unit with a capacity to produce half a ton of glue per day would require an investment of Rs. 1.5 lakhs.

Wool Processing

The district is a wool producing area. It is, therefore, necessary to establish a processing plant for wool. In the district over 447 thousand kilograms (about 1.2 million Lbs.) of carpet wool is annually available which can be supplemented by additional supplies from surrounding areas. It will be necessary to provide training facilities for training personnel. Deesa in the district is, an ideal location. However, facilities of power and water should be provided. A composite unit for top making (capacity about 450 kg. or 1000 lbs) and spinning (capacity about 270 kgs. or 600 lbs. approximately) per shift would involve an investment of over Rs. 5 lakhs and employ about 30 to 40 persons¹.

1. Government of Bombay, *Master Plan of Industrialisation* (1960), p. 16.



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FOREST—BASED INDUSTRIES

Danta, Dhanera, Santalpur and Palanpur talukas are predominantly forest areas in the district. The eastern part of the district outside Aravalli mountain in Danta and Palanpur talukas alone covers about 500 sq. miles of forest area. The various forest products are bamboos, fuelwood, gum, tamarind, fruits, some edible roots, honey and wax. In Amirgadh circle alone, more than 60 per cent of the trees are of bamboos. The local Scheduled Tribes population carry on cutting of forest products in the evening and at night and sell the same at considerably low price in the morning at Palanpur or Kheralu and Taranga hill areas in Mahesana district. Some products, like honey and wax, are sent to distant places like Ahmadabad by the intermediaries who buy the same from the tribals at low price.

The formation of co-operative societies of these tribals for planned exploitation of the permitted areas of the forest is necessary. There should also be some depots at 4-5 places where the tribals can deposit or sell their produce and obtain proper price.

Some rich forests of this district have vanished. However, they have been revived due to the afforestation schemes. Most of the villages in and around forest areas suffer from acute shortage of water. Development of these forest resources and setting up of forest-based industries would benefit the local tribal people and improve the economy of the area.

MINERAL-BASED INDUSTRIES

The already known minerals of this district which are being utilised for local works are : marble, lime stone, building stones, sand, etc. The local people also utilise clay for earthen pottery and tile industry. From Divania and Zarivav stone mines in forest areas lime stone and other valuable stones are being exploited. But some systematic surveys for exploitation of valuable minerals of the district will have to be taken up. These minerals are : copper near Ambaji and mica near Danta. The presence of copper is easily seen from the red colour of the soil and that of mica from the white layer on water. Equally important is

1. Dena Bank, Bombay, *Lead Bank Survey, Report on the Survey of Banking Potentiality in Banaskantha District of Gujarat State*, (1970)-p. 11.



the occurrences of base metals namely copper, lead and zinc at Ambaji. These metals have been indispensable for the progress in the past and today, these are of great strategic importance.

A fairly large base metal deposit is located at Ambaji in Banaskantha district. These deposits have been worked some centuries back and the expensive heaps found at and near Ambaji indicate that the mining and metallurgical industry was of an appreciable magnitude. The estimated reserve is 6.30 million-tonnes with a total metal content of 13.46 (Pb 5.53%, zinc 5.95% and Cu. 1.98%). Proposals to exploit base metal at Ambaji in public sector are under active consideration.

The Kumbharia area near Ambaji has one of the best sites of marble both white and green and is considered better than the Makran marble for carving.

Diwania and Pasuwal Lime Stone Deposits¹

The reserves of Diwania and Pasuwal limestone deposits of the Banaskantha district are of great economic significance.

The deposits have been proved to be of high-grade crystalline limestone occurring as a band in granites and gneisses striking N. E. S. W. and dipping vertically. Marble occurs in the form of a persistent. N. E. S. W. band traceable for about half-a-mile. The width of the marble band is about 16 yards at the southern extremity carrying up to about 50 yards at the northern part. The deposit is located at an altitude of about 1,200 to 1,500 feet in the hilly terrain about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Shri Amirgadh railway station. Assuming a length of about one mile and an average width of 50 yards and a quarriable depth of 100 feet, the total quantity available may be estimated to be about 5 million tonnes. If the quarrying depth could be increased to 150 feet, the reserve would be 7.5 million tonnes.

The Pasuwal deposits occur to the west of Sipu river, about 24 miles by road from Decsa. The rocks strike N. E. S. W. and dip highly towards north-west, the width varying from a few feet up to 50 feet. In the vicinity of Pasuwal, in a strip of about

¹ Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Gujarat, Ahmadabad, *Mineral Wealth*, Vol. 9. July-September, 1973, p. 3.



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one mile in length and quarter of a mile in width, about 3-4 million tons of good quality material may be readily available within a quarriable depth of 30.48 metres.

Cement

As seen previously large deposits of lime stone occur at Pasuwal and Diwania near Amirgadh railway station in Banaskantha district. After a detailed survey of the lime stone deposits, a unit producing about 500 tonnes of cement per day can be suitably established at a place near Amirgadh railway station. Water supply will have to arranged from tube wells.

A 500 tonnes per day plant would involve capital investment of over Rs. 2 crores, employing nearly 500 persons in past some efforts were made in the district to start a cement manufacturing unit at Amirgadh. However, the plan did not materialise.

POTTERIES AND GLASS FACTORY

A scheme for organisation of co-operative society for production of pottery and glass articles at Palanpur in the Banaskantha district is also possible.

A survey of the mineral wealth of the district has shown great potentialities for mining of Silica, Alumina, Ferric oxide, lime, magnesia, etc., which are largely used in the manufacture of glass articles. Actually a glass factory was functioning in the old Palanpur State but it has been closed down for want of finance. It is possible to reorganise this glass factory on co-operative principles and about 300 tons of glass articles can be manufactured. The cost of manufacturing one ton of glass articles is over Rs. 477 inclusive of all charges, viz., raw materials, depreciation, management and other overhead charges. However, considerable revision in the estimate of cost has taken place of late in view of increase in cost of raw materials.

The scheme will also provide employment opportunities to the local people.



Hydrated lime of Precipitated Calcium Carbonate

Production of hydrated lime obtained through calcination of lime stone has good prospects in the district in view of the profuse availability of lime stone in the district. The industry can be co-related with the production of pre-calcium carbonate used in rubber, paper and pharmaceutical industries. The investment requirement would be about Rs. 1.5 lakhs.

Cement Pipes

With the accent laid on irrigation, the demand for cement pipes for distribution of water to the field is on the increase. There are at present four small scale units engaged in the production of the item. In view of the proposed expansion of irrigation facilities, the demand for cement pipes is bound to increase considerably. There is scope for new entrants in the line even after the pipes in the proposed cement factory in the district are made available. A unit can be established within the investment range of Rs. 50,000.

Mosaic Tiles

The proposed cement factory in the district would make available the supply of cement which can also be utilised for manufacture of mosaic tiles. In all modern building constructions, mosaic tiles are used. With the increase in the tempo of construction activities, the demand for mosaic tiles is bound to go higher. At present there is no unit for the manufacture of this item. A typical unit would require an investment of Rs. 1 lakh.

CONSUMER PRODUCTS

Aluminium Sheets and Utensils

With the increase in the population and the price of stainless steel, brass, copper and bel metal wares, the demand for aluminium utensils has gone up considerably in recent years. The demand is bound to increase in future as well. There is scope for units to manufacture aluminium sheets and utensils in the district. At present there are about 200 units in the small scale and some in the large scale in the country of which few units are edreport



functioning in Gujarat State. The demand of aluminium utensils is expected to rise to 20,000 tonnes in the country by the end of 1974-75. The demand of aluminium utensils in Gujarat State would be about 1,000 tonnes valued at Rs. 1.3 crores by the end of 1974-75. A unit with an investment of Rs. 3 lakhs would be an ideal proposition.

Aluminium Anodised Fittings

Aluminium anodised fittings such as aldrops, hinges, tower bolts, etc. used in building construction are becoming increasingly popular as they are attractive and are resistant to rust and corrosion. The present demand in the State is estimated at Rs. 120 lakhs. At present there is no unit manufacturing the item in the district. A unit can be established with an investment of Rs. 2 lakhs in the district.

Washing Soap

Manufacturing of a washing soap in a low investment range is an ideal line that can be taken up by entrepreneurs. While manufacture of soap by the steam boiling process would involve considerable financial outlay and large marketing efforts, soap manufactured by the semi-boiling process would be in the reach of an ordinary entrepreneur. The market for such soap is, however, limited to local demand as otherwise marketing costs may militate against the sale. There are about 425 units engaged in the manufacture of washing soap in State. The demand for washing soap has been estimated to be 60,000 tonnes valued at Rs. 12 crores in the State. The demand is increasing rapidly with the rise in population. The demand in the district, is, however, large enough to absorb the output if one or two units are established in addition to the four units at present operating in the district. The investment per unit would be about Rs. 1 lakh.

Exercise Note Books

There is a considerable demand for exercise note books from the school and college going students in the area. There are 125 schools and 11 colleges in the district with about 2.5 lakhs students. Manufacture of exercise books with the help of mecha-



nised equipment can be taken up profitably to cater to the demand arising in the area. A unit can be started with an investment of Rs. 50,000.

Boxes for School going Children

Anodized aluminium boxes for school going children afford good scope for entrepreneurs. Investment requirement for a unit would be about Rs. 2 lakhs.

Plastic Moulded Goods

The demand for plastic moulded items such as tumblers, toys, spoons, bottles, containers, etc. is well over Rs. 6 lakhs in the district itself and the current requirements are being met out of supplies from outside. The development of petrochemical complex in Gujarat is a happy augury for establishment of plastic industries throughout the State. There is a good scope for a unit in this line in Banaskantha district as well. One or two units can be set up in the district each within the investment range of Rs. 1 lakh.

SERVICE ORIENTED INDUSTRIES

Side by side with the development in the production-oriented industries, a number of service-oriented industries can also be established in the district. There is considerable scope for starting oil mills, flour mills, automobile workshops and service station, general engineering workshop, repair shops for diesel engines and pumps, motor winding, etc.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATIONS

The trade union movement has developed to a very little extent in the district. The trade union movement signified a collective effort on the part of labourers to increase their bargaining power in the labour market and thereby improve their social and economic conditions. It may be pointed out that in the district, there are only very few stable big unions dominated by leaders who are mostly social workers. The trade unions in the district at present are governed by the Indian Trade Unions Act of 1926. The table given below shows the progress of labour unions in the district.



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Year	No. of Unions	Membership
1961-62	3	211
1962-63	3	353
1963-64	4	375
1964-65	3	178
1965-66	6	181
1966-67	5	238
1967-68	5	462
1968-69	6	549
1969-70	5	373
1970-71	2	150
1971-72	2	113
1972-73	2	118

Source :

The Commissioner of Labour, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.

From 1961-62 to 1965-66 number of unions increased. Thereafter there was alternating trend of increase and decrease. The number of unions decreased to 2 in 1972 from 6 in 1968-69, Correspondingly the membership also decreased from 373 in 1969-70 to 118 in 1972-73.

Employers' Organisations

It has already been examined previously that the district is not industrially fully developed and as such very few factories are members of the Employers' Organisations. Mention, however, must be made of the Green Marble Factory, Ambaji which is a member of the Gujarat Mineral Industries Association.

WELFARE OF INDUSTRIAL LABOUR

Prior to Independence the territories of the Banaskantha district belonged to several States and Estates of which Palanpur and Radhanpur were important. However, as there was no industrial development in these States, the welfare of industrial labour did not assume importance. After the merger of States and Estates into Bombay State, the labour legislation followed in that State was also applied to the Banaskantha district. The Government till this day have undertaken several important measures, among which factory legislation stands out prominently¹. Apart from Government

1. The other important Acts such as Workmen's Compensation Act, 1927; the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926; The Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Maternity Benefit Act, 1929; the Employees Provident Fund Act, 1952 which promoted the welfare of industrial labour have been described in Chapter XVII—Other Social Services.



some large scale factories also regard welfare work as prudent investment. However, excepting the Banas Dairy there is no other large scale factory in the Banaskantha district. This dairy has undertaken several welfare activities such as medical aid, recreation facilities, canteen, etc. This section outlines the measures undertaken for the welfare of industrial labour.

The Factories Act, 1948

History—The humane treatment of the workers maintains the harmonious industrial relationship in factories and workshops. A beginning in the labour legislation was made as early as 1881 for the regulation of conditions of labour when the Factories Act, 1881 was passed. This Act was a simple piece of legislation. In 1934, it was drastically amended to implement the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Labour in India and the conventions of the International Labour Organisation. The Act has been amended from time to time widening its scope and enlarging the rights of workers. In 1948 an entirely new Act was enacted to consolidate and amend the law relating to labour in factories. The Act lays down the minimum provisions for safety, health and welfare of workers in factories

The main provisions of the Act are as follows

The Act covers all industrial establishments employing 10 or more workers, where power is used, or 20 or more workers, where power is not used. It removes the distinction between perennial and seasonal factories. It has made a provision relating to health, safety and welfare of workers. It provides for cleanliness, ventilation, cooling of air, sufficient lighting, supply of drinking water, separate latrines and urinals for males and females, artificial humidification, and disposal of waste and effluents.

It further provides for fencing of machinery by substantial construction, only specially trained adult male workers being permitted to handle the machinery in motion. No woman or child is allowed to clean, lubricate, or adjust any part of the moving machinery. The other safety provisions relate to the casing of new machinery, devices for cutting off power, hoists, cranes and other lifting machines, protection of eyes and precautions against dangerous fumes.



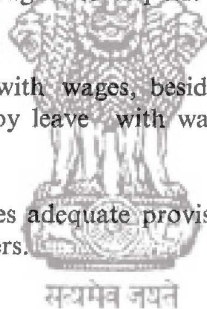
Provisions are made for adequate washing facilities, and canteens in units employing 250 workers, creches in units employing 50 women and shelter or rest rooms in units employing 150 workers. The Act also requires the owner of any factory employing 500 or more workers to appoint a Labour Welfare Officer.

The minimum age for employment of young persons is fixed at 14 and the upper age limit for adolescents is raised from 17 to 18 years.

The hours of work have been fixed at 48 hours a week and 9 hours a day for adult workers. For persons below 18, the hours of work are fixed at 4½ hours a day. Employment of children and women between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. is prohibited. For overtime work, twice the normal rate of wage is to be paid.

As regards leave with wages, besides weekly holidays, every worker is entitled to enjoy leave with wages after one year's continuous service.

Thus, the Act makes adequate provisions for the safety, health and welfare of the workers.



WAGES

After Independence the concept of Minimum Wages has gained tremendous importance. It has also been translated into reality by the enactment of Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The problem of wage determination cannot be considered in isolation from the larger economic and social background obtaining at present in the district. A well conceived wage policy aims at (a) continuous improvement in living standards of workers and (b) reasonable returns for the employers. In the sphere of wages, workers in the less organised industries have been given income protection through the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The State Government has made additions from time to time, to the list of employments covered under this Act. The Statement V.9 given at the end of the chapter gives a comparative idea of minimum wages fixed for workers of the industries mentioned therein.



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Medical Benefits, Canteens, Recreational facilities, etc.

There is only one large scale factory, viz, the Banaskantha District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Limited, Palanpur. In this unit, there is a provision of medical allowance of Rs. 30/- per year and full medical expenditure of the injured (accident) employee is borne by the factory. A canteen is run by the employees on no profit no loss basis. The factory has also provided housing facilities to the essential staff.



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STATEMENT V.6

Number and Types of Working Factories Showing Average Employment in 1960, 1965 and 1970

Sl. No.	2	1960		1965		1970	
		No. of factories	No. of workers	No. of factories	No. of workers	No. of factories	No. of workers
1		3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Gins and Presses	..	..	1	42	2	Closed
2.	Manufacture of dairy products.	..	..	..	..	..	..
3.	Canning and Preservation of fruits and vegetables	..	..	..	..	..	..
4.	Manufacture of miscellaneous food preparations	4	177	1	71	..	..
5.	Manufacture of made up textile goods (except wearing apparel)	1	32	1	58	1	59
6.	Manufacture of wood and cork except manufacture of furniture	1	22	..	..	..	..
7.	Manufacture of pulp, paper and paper board.	2	56	2	52	1	27
8.	Basic chemicals (including fertilizers and miscellaneous chemicals products)	1	20	1	15	..	..
9.	Petroleum refineries	1	9	..	..	..	..
10.	Structural clay products	..	..	..	..	..	..
11.	Non - metallic mineral products	..	..	1	20	6	131
12.	Manufacture of machinery (except electrical machinery)	..	..	1	15	1	10
13.	Manufacture and repairs of motor vehicles	6	122	5	144	7	213
14.	Jewellery	..	..	2	34	2	14
15.	Manufacture of industries (not elsewhere classified)	..	..	1	49	1	43
16.	Electric light and power	4	72	2	32	..	..
	Total	20	510	18	532	21	497

Source :

District Census Handbook 1971, Banaskantha, Part X-C-I, p. 23.

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STATEMENT V.7

The Number of Establishments and Number of Persons Employed in Cottage Industries Selected for Survey 1959-60

Name of the Industry 1	Total No. of Establishments			No. of persons employed in the Selected Industries						Total No. of persons employed in the Selected Industries		
				Household			Outsiders					
	Power 2	Non-power 3	Total 4	Power 5	Non-power 6	Total 7	Power 8	Non-power 9	Total 10	Power 11	Non-power 12	Total 13
Weaving	..	1,137	1,137	..	3,184	3,184	..	202	202	..	3,386	3,386
Dying and printing	..	56	56	..	122	122	..	21	21	..	143	143
Jari thread works	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Blacksmithy	1	74	75	2	97	99	..	38	38	2	135	137
Metal works	1	1,273	1,274	2	2,017	2,019	..	5	5	2	2,022	2,024
Carpentry	..	2,413	2,413	..	3,039	3,039	..	8	8	..	3,047	3,047
Cane & bamboo products	..	135	135	..	271	271	..	..	..	..	271	271
Bricks and tiles	..	784	784	..	2,286	2,286	..	1,765	1,765	..	4,051	4,051
Other potteries	..	1,273	1,273	..	3,361	3,361	..	..	..	..	3,361	3,361
Leather working and tanning	..	2,652	2,652	..	5,471	5,471	..	32	32	..	5,503	5,503
Oil pressing	9	518	527	8	1,141	1,149	24	6	30	32	1,147	1,179
Gur making	..	603	603	..	1,541	1,541	..	1,675	1,675	..	3,216	3,216
Bee-keeping	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Soap making	..	1	1	..	2	2	..	6	6	..	8	8
Match making	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paddy husking	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	11	10,919	10,930	12	22,532	22,544	24	3,758	3,782	36	26,290	26,326

There are no Small Scale establishments in Banaskantha district.

Source : Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Gujarat, *Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, Vol.II, No.I, January-March, 1962.

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STATEMENT V.8



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STATEMENT V.8
Small Industries in Unorganised Sector (1969-70)

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Sl. No. 1	Name of Industry 2	Type of organisation					Units		No. of workers-employ- ed 10	Product	
		No. of units 3	Part- ner- ship 4	Pro- pri- or ship 5	Co- opera- tive 6	Others 7	Using power 8	Not using power 9		Main 11	Subsidiary 12
1.	Manufacture of cocoa, chocolate and sugar	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	5	Confectionery	..
2.	Manufacture of miscellaneous food preparation	..	2	1	1	..	2	..	12	Edible oil	Oil cakes
3.	Tobacco manufactures	11	3	8	..	..	2	9	79	Bidi and snuff	..
4.	Spinning, weaving and finishing of textiles	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	5	Saree-printing	..
5.	Manufacture of textile not elsewhere classified	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	10	Wool-pressing	..
6.	Manufacture of footwear	2	..	2	..	..	..	2	10	Footwear	..
7.	Saw mill, planning and other wood mills	2	1	1	..	..	2	..	13	Saw wood	Saw-dust
8.	Wooden and cane containers and cane small ware	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	6	Wooden-boxes	..
9.	Manufacture of furniture and fixture	2	..	2	..	..	1	1	14	Wooden and metal furniture.	..
10.	Manufacture of pulp, paper and paper board	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	14	Paper-boxes	..
11.	Printing, publishing and allied industries	3	..	2	1	..	3	..	19	Printing	Book-binding
12.	Tanneries and leather finishing plants	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	8	Leather finishing	..
13.	Manufacture of rubber products	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	6	Repair of tyres	..
14.	Vegetable and animal oils and fats	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	8	Vegetable oils	..

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15. Manufacture of miscellaneous chemical products ..	3	2	1	..	..	..	3	16 Soap and perfums ..
16. Manufacture of structural clay products ..	6	..	6	..	..	..	6	44 Bricks ..
17. Manufacture of non-metallic mineral products not elsewhere classified.	4	1	3	..	..	4	..	23 Cement and concrete products ..
18. Manufacture of machinery except electrical machinery ..	9	1	8	..	..	8	1	53 Repairs of oil engines .. agricultural implements machinery, spare parts.
19. Manufacture of electrical machinery apparatus, appliances and supplies.	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	5 Electrical motor .. repairing
20. Manufacture of motor vehicles	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	7 Automobile ancillaries ..
21. Repair of motor vehicles	4	..	4	..	..	2	2	22 Motor repairing ..
22. Manufacturing of motor cycle and bicycles	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	5 Repair of bicycles ..
23. Manufacture of jewellery and related articles	69	7	67	..	1	69	..	546 Diamond cutting
Total ..	128	19	107	1	1	96	32	930

Source : Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Gujarat, Ahmadabad, *Directory of Small Industrial Units in the Unorganised Sector in Gujarat State* Vol. IV.

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STATEMENT V.9
Rates of Minimum Wages in the District Fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948

(IN RS. AND PAISE)

Sl. No. 1	Name of the employment 2	Skilled 3	Semi-Skilled 4	Unskilled 5	Clerical Staff 6	Date from which the rates are in force 7
1.	Employment in any tobacco (including bidi making) manufactory ¹ .	Daily rates	Monthly rates	..	..	1-7 1973
	(i) Bidi wrappers	3.83	99.58			
	(ii) Machine attendants	4.84	125.84			
	(iii) Grinding machine (attendant)	4.50	117.00			
	(iv) Tobacco grinder (hand grinder machine)	4.84	125.84			
	(v) Labels, tobacco driers, cleaners and persons who are not covered under any of the foregoing entries.	3.84	99.58			
	(vi) Accountant	6.06	157.56			
	(vii) Clerk/motor vehicle driver	5.10	134.94			
	(viii) Motor vehicle cleaners/Chokidar	3.81	99.06			
	(ix) per 1,000 bidies for bidimakers :					
	A Palanpur, Deesa	..	3.50			
	B Other part of the district	..	3.25			
2.	Employment in any oil mill	(a) per-day	5.35	4.60	4.00	15-6-1972
		(b) per-month	139.10	119.60	104.00	
3.	Employment in any industry in which any process of printing by letter press, lithography, other similar work incidental to such process or book binding is carried on	(A) ..	110.00	85.00	75.00	1- 1-1966
		(B) ..	100.00			
4.	Employment in the tannaries and leather manufactory ..					
	(A) Palanpur { Tanneries per month	.. per month	97.50	84.50	80.60	1-3-1966
	Leather manufactory	.. per month	101.40	91.00	84.50	

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(B) other parts of district		Tanneries	per month	91.00	83.20	78.00		
		Leather manufactory		93.60	85.80	80.60		
5.	Employment in any power loom industry	.. ..	..	105.00	85.00	75.00	..	1- 1-1967
6.	Employment in any rice mills, flour mills or Dal mill :							
	(A) Towns having a population of 10,000 persons and above but less than 35,000 persons.	per month		85.00	75.00	67.00		1- 4-1967
	(B) Other parts of the district	.. ..	..	80.00	70.00	62.00		
7.	Employment in any cotton ginning or cotton pressing manufactory :							1-11-1967
	(A) Palanpur-Deesa	.. per month	A	140.00	90.00	70.00	..	
		.. ..	B	100.00	80.00	..	..	
	(B) Other parts of the district	.. ..	A	130.00	80.00	60.00	..	
		.. ..	B	90.00	70.00	..	..	
8.	Employment in stone breaking or crushing	.. per day		4.00	3.00	2.40	..	1-11-1967
9.	Employment in potteries industry :							
	(A) Borough municipalities area	.. per day		4.25	A 3.65	2.85		1- 2-1968
		.. ..			B 3.25			
		.. per month		110.50	A 94.90			
					B 84.50	74.50	125.00	
	(B) All the areas not included in (A) above	.. per day		3.50	A 3.50	2.70		
		.. ..			B 3.10			
		per month		106.60	A 91.00	70.20	110.00	
					B 80.60			

1. (a) The minimum rates for double "Nakh" bidi will be more by Rs. 0.50 per 1,000 bidies.
- (b) The minimum rates for 'Afia' or 'Asatri' bidies will be more by Rs. 0.50 per 1,000 bidies.
- (c) The minimum rates are to be paid to the employees where the leaves are supplied by the employers.
- (d) Where the employers are not suppling leaves for rolling of bidies Rs. 1.00 will be paid extra to the workers per every, 1,000 bidies.
- (e) The minimum rates includes charges for the cutting of leaves and packing bundles of 25 each.

Source :

The Commissioner of Labour, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.

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CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

A—Banking and Finance

MONEY-LENDERS

The former Gazetteer on Palanpur has referred to the existence of private banking houses and that Palanpur, Deesa and Radhanpur had bankers of considerable means. The Talukdars borrowed from these bankers within the Palanpur or Baroda limits and village shopkeepers were the main source for borrowing money by the rural folk. These shopkeepers recovered their dues from the borrower cultivators at the harvest time and so harsh was their recovery that the cultivators were often left with very little for their future needs. Sometimes the cultivator lost all the farm gains and was forced to borrow for day to day maintenance. Similarly the rate of interest also varied largely on secured and unsecured loans. For agricultural advances based on the security of standing crops, almost 12 per cent interest was charged but when the land was mortgaged the rate was 3 to 4 per cent only. Personal loans were charged interest as high as 15 per cent or more. Money-lenders were concentrated in Santalpur, Radhanpur, Vav, Deodar, Tharad, Kan-krej, Danta and Dhanera talukas and most of them are from the Lohana and Bania communities and Memons.

In the absence of alternative sources of credit, the money-lenders were the main masters of the money market. Though this institution of money-lenders has been abused for the malpractices adopted by it: yet it, enjoyed considerable popularity with the masses because it, provided assistance to borrowers during any time of day or night. Relations between the borrowers and the creditors also remained cordial because the money-lenders protected the cultivator borrowers on many occasions inclusive of the discharge of social obligations by the latter. The result was that there was large scale indebtendness of the cultivators. The rulers of former princely States and Estates of Palanpur, Radhanpur, Danta, etc., did not take any interest in giving relief to cultivators. This situation existed at the time of Independence.

After Independence, the Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946

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was applied to the Bansakantha district from 1948-49. This Act imposed certain restrictions on the activities of money-lenders. Over and above this, alternative agencies of credit like the co-operative credit societies and commercial banking were encouraged and strengthened to provide loans to cultivators and others at reasonable rates of interest. The following Statement VI.1 shows the extent of the business captured by money-lenders.

STATEMENT VI.1
Working of Money-lenders, 1968 to 1972

(IN THOUSAND RUPEES)

Year	No. of licensed Money- lenders	Their loans to traders (Rs.)	Loans to Non-traders		Total (Rs.)	Total loans to traders and Non- traders (Rs.)
			To the agri- culturists (Rs.)	To the Non- agriculturists (Rs.)		
1968	.. 691	96	1632	4378	6010	6106
1969	.. 689	284	1844	3038	4882	5166
1970	.. 670	82	2474	266	2740	2822
1971	... 650	119	2891	277	3168	3287
1972	... 578	126	2649	330	2979	3105
Total		707	11,490	82,89	19,779	204,86

Source : Co-operative Officer, Money-lenders, Mahesana.

The statement reveals that there were 691 money-lenders in 1968 and 578 in 1972. The reason for decline in the numbers of money-lenders is that on account of legal restrictions imposed on the money-lenders under the Bombay Money-lenders Act, some money-lenders might have stopped carrying on money-lending business. Though the co-operative societies and the nationalised banks provide loans to cultivators, the impact of money-lenders on cultivators has not declined. This will be evident from the fact that the total credit provided by money-lenders increased from Rs. 16,32,000 in 1968 to Rs. 28,91,000 in 1971. This figure declined slightly to Rs. 26,49,000 in 1972. The total advances by money-lenders between 1968 and 1972 to traders and non-traders were to the tune of Rs. 2,04,86,000. Of these, loans to agriculturists were as much as 56.09 per cent, while those to non-traders were 40.46 per cent. Thus as much as 96.55 per cent of the money-lenders' credit went



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to cultivators and non-traders. Their loans to traders formed only 3.45 per cent of the total credit. Further the year 1972 witnessed an overall decline in the business of money-lenders compared to previous year 1971.

AGRICULTURAL INDEBTEDNESS

No authentic information about the extent of indebtedness of the cultivating community in the district is available. The Banaskantha district is economically one of the most backward districts of the State and the condition of its agricultural community was and to some extent it is still deplorable because of inadequate and irregular rainfall and absence of any alternative means of gainful employment. The result is that agriculture is still the mainstay of the district's economy. The Palanpur Agency Reports mention that a majority of talukdars and cultivators were hopelessly involved in debt.¹ In the Banaskantha district, the hold of the money-lenders on agriculturists was so powerful that even if they (agriculturists) wanted to approach a doctor, a pleader or a Government servant, they could not do it without the help of money-lenders. The village *sahukar*, who was also usually a trader, provided articles of necessities to the cultivators and in return forfeited the entire output for recovering his dues. As a result the cultivator became his permanent debtor.

After the revolt of agriculturists in the Deccan, Government became aware of the alarming problem of agrarian debt. The Government, therefore, passed in 1879, the Agriculturist Debtors' Relief Act. Some of the progressive native States also followed suit and passed similar legislations in their respective States. However, no such legislation seems to have been passed by Palanpur, Radhanpur or any other princely States in the Banaskantha district.

The Bombay Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee estimated the total debt of British Gujarat at Rs. 11.75 crores. The total area of Gujarat being thrice as big as the British Gujarat, the total debt was estimated to be Rs. 34.25 crores. The former Bhavnagar State calculated the debt at Rs. 18 per acre of cultivated area. According to this formula, the total rural indebtedness was Rs. 25.20

1. *Annual Administration Report of Palanpur Agency*, 1918-19, p. 11.



crores. But net debt per cultivated acre was Rs. 20 in North Gujarat (which also includes the present Banaskantha area) and Rs. 52 in South Gujarat. Thus per acre indebtedness was higher in British Gujarat even in the year 1929-30. The indebtedness also rose by at least 25 per cent on account of slump in the agricultural prices after 1929-30. The total rural debt was, therefore, assumed to be Rs. 35 crores.

The Baroda Economic Development Committee estimated Rs. 8 crores as the rural debt in Baroda territory in 1918-19. According to this formula the total rural indebtedness of all Gujarat was estimated to be Rs. 40 crores.

According to still another method the total rural indebtedness of Gujarat was estimated to be of the order of Rs. 30 crores by calculating on the basis of ratio of land revenue to rural indebtedness.

But the rural indebtedness of India increased by 100 per cent during the interval between the depression of 1929 and the Second World War. The war time prosperity brought down the debt considerably. Therefore, taking into account the slump of 1930-37 and the inflation of 1938-43 the estimates of rural debt at Rs. 35 crores for Gujarat appear to be fair and reasonable.¹

Thus there was neither any Act regulating the activities of money-lenders nor any measure for providing relief from the burden of the debt in the State. There was however, an agrarian unrest in Palanpur and Radhanpur States during the forties of this century. In such circumstances, it could safely be surmised that the quantum of indebtedness would have been of considerable magnitude. However, after Independence, the Bombay Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act, 1939, was applied to the district with effect from 15th June, 1949. Extensive propaganda work was also carried out by holding the meeting at different places in the district to explain the benefits of the Act to the cultivators. The main objective of the Act was to bring down the inflated volume of debt of the poor agriculturists within the reach of their repaying capacity and to make them entirely free from indebtedness by making arrangements for the repayment in easy instalments. The Land Valuation Officer appointed for the purpose also rendered use-

1. TRIVEDI A. B., *Post-War Gujarat*, (1949), pp. 50-51.



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ful assistance to the civil courts in determining the repaying capacity of debtor cultivators. Between 1949 and 1957 in all 34,083 applications involving an amount of Rs. 10,276,575 were received under the Act by the various civil courts in the district and the amount by which this debt was reduced came to Rs. 8,845,064.

However, such measures were able to provide temporary relief but they could not cure the disease. It is realised that real solution of agrarian indebtedness lies in the sound economic condition and the rational economic behaviour of the agriculturists. The spread of education, better marketing facility and development of alternative agencies like credit societies and co-operative and commercial banks will help to solve the problem of agricultural indebtedness in due course.

The Souvenir published at the time of All India Congress Session in 1961 at Bhavnagar gives some interesting details about Gujarat on the subject of indebtedness.

Before 1956, the merchants were the main source of credit as 67.4 per cent of people took loans from them and only 26.1 per cent from co-operative societies and banks. By 1956-57, the co-operative credit was extended to 34.9 per cent of population, credit from merchants covered 59.2 per cent of people and internal debt from relatives was to the tune of 6.5 and 5.9 per cent respectively in 1956-57 and 1958. This shows the hold of merchants in the field of providing credit. In 1958, 47.7 per cent of credit was provided by co-operatives, 42.8 per cent by merchants and 9.5 per cent by relatives. The figures of average debt for the year 1956-57 show that the amount of credit provided by co-operatives and relatives was nearly double as compared to the credit provided by Bohra merchants. The survey revealed that out of 459 families surveyed 12.4 per cent of families incurred debt in 1957. This figure rose to 55.1 in 1958. The survey further revealed that till 1957 the extent of debt on social occasions was 58.9 per cent and debt on land, wells and houses was 41.1 per cent. But in 1958 the debt on social occasions was reduced to 25.6 and economic debt increased to 74.4 per cent respectively. This reveals a healthy trend and changes in the psychology of the people and agriculturists in particular to incur debt for productive purposes.

1. 66th Session of Congress, Bhavnagar, p. 471.



JOINT STOCK BANKS

The Banaskantha district is one of the most backward districts of the State. Because of inadequate means of communications and inadequate and irregular rainfall, trade and commerce and industry have not developed much. Consequently the commercial banks had very little incentive to capture the funds from this district.

The growth of commercial banks in the district is, therefore, very recent. Prior to Independence, the Nawab of the Palanpur had invited the Bank of India Ltd., in 1944 to open its branch at Palanpur. Thus the branch of the Bank of India established at Palanpur on 18th December, 1944, was the pioneer in starting banking business on modern lines in this district. The following statement shows expansion of commercial banking facilities in the district.

STATEMENT VI.2

Growth of Commercial Banks, 1952

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Location	Year
1	2	3	4
1.	Bank of India	Palanpur	18-12-44
2.	State Bank of India	Palanpur	15-06-54
3.	Bank of Baroda	Radhanpur	29-01-55
4.	United Commercial Bank	Deesa	31-03-58
5.	State Bank of India	Deesa	17-03-58
6.	Dena Bank	Palanpur	25-11-60
7.	State Bank of India	Tharad	27-02-65
8.	State Bank of India	Ambaji	5-04-66
9.	State Bank of India	Bhabhar	22-05-66
10.	State Bank of India	Dhanera	29-06-67

Source : *Annual Administration Report of the Radhanpur State, 1944-45, pp. 4-5.*

1. With a view to afford credit facilities to the cultivators and other needy persons on easy terms, a bank known as 'Vadhiar Bank' was established in Radhanpur State in 1927. Financial Assistance was also provided to the cultivators, petty merchants and tradesmen from the 'Vadhiar Fund' started in 1933 by the former Radhanpur State. Further details about the Bank are not available.



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STATEMENT VI.2—Contd.

Sl. No. 1	Name of the Bank 2	Location 3	Year 4
11.	State Bank of India ..	Radhanpur	7-08-67
12.	Bank of Baroda ..	Palanpur	5-11-69
13.	Bank of Baroda ...	Vadgam	5-11-69
14.	Bank of Baroda ..	Chhapi	5-11-69
15.	State Bank of India ..	Deodar	8-12-69
16.	State Bank of India ..	Vav	24-12-69
17.	Dena Bank ..	Danta	4-04-70
18.	Dena Bank ..	Gadh	10-04-70
19.	Dena Bank ..	Varahi	20-07-70
20.	Dena Bank ..	Sihori	21-07-70
21.	Dena Bank ..	Bhildi	29-09-70
22.	Dena Bank ..	Kanodar	30-09-70
23.	Dena Bank ..	Thara	25-12-70
24.	Dena Bank ..	Deesa	25-12-70
25.	Dena Bank ..	Vav	25-12-70
26.	Dena Bank ..	Bhabhar	25-12-70
27.	Dena Bank ..	Vadgam	22-02-71
28.	Dena Bank ..	Radhanpur	16-06-71
29.	Dena Bank ..	Meta	16-06-71
30.	Dena Bank ..	Palanpur	1-07-71
31.	State Bank of India ..	Iqbalgadh	4-11-71
32.	Union Bank of India ..	Palanpur	11-10-72

Source

Compiled on the basis of information supplied by individual banks.

The statement reveals that till the formation of Gujarat State, there were only 5 branches of the commercial banks in the district. In the year 1969, a progressive step was taken by the Government by nationalising 14 major banks of the Indian origin, the underlying principle being to cater to the needs of priority sectors of agriculture and small scale industries which were neglected by the commercial banks in respect of financial needs. Further, these banks operated in the already over-banked urban areas. This was to be



decentralised and branches were to be opened in rural and unbanked/ under-banked areas under the new dispensation. In the Banaskantha district, the Dena Bank was assigned the functions of the Lead Bank. It chalked out a programme of branch expansion, especially for the developing centres as well as unbanked and under-banked centres in the district. As a result of this as many as 13 branches were established in the rural areas of the district. Further, the statement reveals that the Dena Bank opened the highest number of branches in the district (15). The branches established by other nationalised banks in order are: the State Bank of India (10), Bank of Baroda (4), and one each of the United Commercial Bank, the Union Bank and Bank of India respectively. The statement also reveals that two branches were opened during the First and three during the Second Five Year Plan, one branch was opened during the Third Plan, four branches were opened during the Annual Plans, whereas twenty-one branches were opened during the Fourth Five Year Plan period.

Palanpur, the district headquarters, is served by six branches of the commercial banks, Radhanpur and Deesa by three branches each, and Vav, Bhabhar and Vadgam with two branches each. Rest of the centres had one branch of the commercial bank. Thus except the Santalpur taluka all other talukas are covered by an office of the commercial branch.

The following statement shows the figures of deposits and advances in the years 1968 and 1972 :

STATEMENT VI.3
Operations of the Commercial Banks

(IN LAKHS OF RUPEES)

Sl. No.	Name of the Centre	Deposits		Advances	
		1968	1972	1968	1972
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.	Palanpur	193	338	13	79
2.	Deesa	...	99	...	22
3.	Radhanpur	...	67	...	28
4.	Bhabhar	...	12	...	1
5.	Vadgam	...	9	...	4
6.	Vav	...	6	...	2
7.	Others*	98	121	10	24
	Total ...	291	652	23	160

* Shows the total of the figures of the centres with less than 2 branch offices.

Source : (1) Reserve Bank of India, Statistical Tables relating to Banks in India, (1968), p. A. 90.

(2) Reserve Bank of India, Banking Statistics, Vol. 1, (1972), p. 45.



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The statement shows that there is considerable rise in the amount of deposits and advances within a period of four years of nationalisation. The percentage of advances in relation to the deposits collected by the banks in the district reveals that the advances which were only 7.90 per cent in the year 1968 increased to 24.50 per cent in 1972. Palanpur, Radhanpur and Deesa jointly collected 77.45 per cent of deposits and utilised 80.62 per cent of advances in the year 1972. The reasons for such large increase in advances are that prior to nationalisation, these banks met the financial requirements of a few big industrial and commercial houses. Since then, they are required to set apart funds for granting loans to agriculture, small scale industries, road transport operators, rickshaw drivers, etc. Personal loans are also granted to artisans and small traders and to the owners of industrial sheds in the industrial estates.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES

The district of Banaskantha was and still is economically backward as the majority of its population is socially and educationally backward. As in other districts of the State, the concept of mutual help was quite unknown almost till Independence because the area now known as the Banaskantha district was interspersed with large and small princely States and petty estates. It is, therefore, no wonder that both rulers and the ruled lived in seclusion and winds of change sweeping over large part of adjoining area did not affect the princely States and estates. This will be evident from the fact that on the eve of Independence, there were only three co-operative societies in this district. They were registered under the Bombay Co-operative Societies Act, 1925. The office of the Assistant District Registrar, Co-operative Societies was created at Palanpur in 1951 to organise and develop the co-operative movement in the district. In the very first year as many as 60 co-operative societies were registered. As a result of strenuous efforts under the Plans, the number of co-operative societies rose to 172 in 1955-56, 735 in 1960-61 and to 1,040 in 1972-73. Thus it will be seen that the movement has made a commendable progress consequent upon the launching of the Planning era in the country. Its functional range has also been widened considerably in the light of experience and expansion of co-operative base. More and more economic activities are being brought within the fold of co-operative movement. A brief description of working of agricultural credit and



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non-agricultural credit societies in the Banaskantha district is given below.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT SOCIETIES

These societies still occupy a coveted position in the co-operative structure because the co-operative movement itself was primarily introduced in the country to provide finance to the agriculturists for raising farm output. As already seen, the co-operative movement made rapid strides under the Five Year Plans. The concept of service co-operatives which was introduced from 1959, was instrumental in making co-operative credit societies really serviceable to the cultivators. Besides providing credit, the service co-operatives undertake distribution of seeds and fertilisers, supply tools and implements and also run consumer stores. Against this background the following statistics throw light on the operations of these societies in the district.

STATEMENT VI.4

Working of Agricultural Credit Societies

(RS. IN THOUSANDS)

Year 1	No. of Socie- ties 2	Member- ship 3	Share Capital Rs. 4	Advances Rs. 5	Working Capital Rs. 6	Depo- sits Rs. 7	Reserve and other assets Rs. 8	Over- dues Rs. 9
1960-61	575	47,526	2,691	5,101	8,271	115	321	636
1961-62	604	54,702	3,479	6,281	10,293	138	509	2,178
1962-63	641	55,695	4,728	10,155	16,344	204	616	2,260
1963-64	661	57,958	5,492	9,734	19,162	212	758	3,938
1964-65	669	64,485	6,336	10,902	19,162	245	937	4,600
1965-66	669	65,560	7,108	12,098	21,849	220	1,134	4,347
1966-67	668	68,748	7,564	16,398	26,520	255	14,594	8,815
1967-68	667	68,452	8,259	18,168	25,741	288	1,553	18,198
1968-69	663	68,683	8,739	13,395	27,712	279	1,777	11,520
1969-70	626	69,263	8,711	12,942	27,997	373	1,950	12,690
1970-71	613	67,425	8,507	7,151	22,667	327	2,344	9,267
1971-72	603	66,908	8,857	12,653	23,595	286	2,547	8,820
1972-73	588	66,180	9,092	15,994	26,217	347	2,820	7,876
1973-74	597	69,384	9,953	23,572	29,560	484	3,397	5,706

Source :

Assistant District Registrar, Co-operation and Marketing, Banaskantha District, Palanpur.

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The statement reveals that though the number of societies has decreased, their membership, share capital, working capital, deposits, etc., have witnessed considerable increase during the period from 1960-61 to 1973-74. Membership rose from 47,526 to 69,384, share capital increased from Rs. 26,91,000 to Rs. 99,53,000, working capital rose from Rs. 82,71,000 to Rs. 29,560,000 and deposits went up from Rs. 1,15,000 to Rs. 4,84,000. Advances have also increased from Rs. 49,50,000 in 1960-61 to Rs. 2.16 crores in 1973-74. However, with the increase in advances the overdues have also increased from Rs. 6,36,000 in 1960-61 to Rs. 57,06,000 in 1973-74. In the Banaskantha district the dependence on agriculture is absolute because the industrial expansion has not taken place. Hence the farmers have no recourse but to obtain necessary finance from the co-operative societies. Further the district often becomes a victim of famine and scarcity conditions. The societies are, therefore, required to advance loans liberally to the farmers in the district. The decrease in the number of societies could also be attributed to mounting overdues because farmers were not able to repay their loans on account of famines and scarcity conditions which are almost of a recurring nature.

NON-AGRICULTURAL CREDIT SOCIETIES

Just as agricultural credit societies play an important role in the life of cultivators, non-agricultural credit societies do so in the life of artisans, salary earners, small traders, etc. The urban co-operative banks, urban thrift and credit societies, salary earners societies, etc., are included in this group. The urban co-operative banks, also known as Nagarik Sahkari Bank or Peoples' Co-operative Banks are assuming greater importance day by day. While the agricultural credit societies are mostly situated in rural areas, the non-agricultural credit societies are usually situated in urban and semi-urban areas. In the Banaskantha district, industry and commerce have not developed to a desired extent and hence there are only few urban centres. Due to this, the non-agricultural credit societies have not developed much in this district. In 1960-61, there were only nine non-agricultural credit societies and till 1962-63, there was not a single urban co-operative bank. In 1973-74, in all there were 55 non-agricultural credit societies, out of which six were urban banks. The membership of these banks in 1973-74 was 5,349, share capital Rs. 14,49,000, deposits Rs. 56,19,000, working capital Rs. 1,23,30,000 and advances Rs. 1,29,30,000. The following

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statement gives an idea about the progress of the non-agricultural credit societies in the district since 1960-61 to 1973-74.

STATEMENT VI.5

Working of the Non-agricultural Credit Societies including Urban Co-operative Banks for the year 1960-61 to 1973-74

(RS. IN THOUSANDS)

Year	No. of Societies	Membership	Share Capital Rs.	Deposits Rs.	Working Capital Rs.	Advances Rs.	Overdues Rs.	Reserve and other Funds Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1960-61	9	1,249	50	N.A.	87	98	N.A.	6
1961-62	15	1,553	87	„	148	187	„	8
1962-63	22	2,864	310	„	753	1,050	„	10
1963-64	30	4,580	599	„	1,849	4,470	„	31
1964-65	32	5,517	862	„	2,568	10,165	„	23
1965-66	36	7,313	1,208	„	4,495	15,699	„	45
1966-67	36	7,788	1,400	„	5,400	15,600	„	80
1967-68	38	8,071	1,567	1,511	5,302	14,173	968	130
1968-69	42	8,239	1,571	1,816	5,936	8,699	1,503	195
1969-70	45	7,696	1,639	2,115	6,265	2,818	2,134	307
1970-71	48	9,231	1,632	2,460	6,456	3,176	1,610	372
1971-72	50	9,123	1,592	3,058	6,743	2,891	1,787	409
1972-73	52	10,747	1,970	4,299	9,112	23,552	1,312	539
1973-74	55	11,493	2,484	5,917	15,229	15,808	1,124	634

N. A. = Not available

Source :

Assistant District Registrar, Co-operation and Marketing, Palanpur.

It will be clear from the above statement that during the period between 1960-61 and 1973-74, the number of societies rose from 9 to 55, membership from 1,249 to 11,493 share capital from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 24,84,000, working capital from Rs. 87,000 to Rs. 1,52,29,000 and reserve and other funds from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 6,34,000. During this period advances have also increased considerably, i. e. from Rs. 98,000 to Rs. 1,58,08,000. Thus non-agricultural credit societies are steadily making satisfactory progress.

The Banaskantha District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd.

Origin—In Banaskantha district finance to the co-operative societies was provided by the Bombay State Co-operative Bank,



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through its branches established at Palanpur, Deesa, Sihori and Deodar between 1947 and 1959. However, in accordance with the policy laid down by the Reserve Bank of India to start a District Central Co-operative Bank for each district, the Banaskantha District Central Co-operative Bank came into existence in 1959. The work of branches of the Bombay State Co-operative Bank in Banaskantha district was then taken over by the Banaskantha District Central Co-operative Bank.

Branches—On account of the development of co-operative movement after the formation of Gujarat State, the bank opened branches at all the important centres in the district. In 1960-61 three branches were opened at Vadgam, Tharad and Radhanpur. The Dhanera branch was opened in 1961-62. Six branches were opened between 1962-64 at Santalpur, Danta, Vav, Bhabhar, Ambaji and Vadgam. The Thara branch was opened in 1964-65. Two branches at Bhildi and Gadh were started in 1966-67 and two at Jalotra and Panthawada in 1969-70. In 1970-71 and 1971-72, six branches were opened at Juna, Deesa, Panchada, Vidyamandir (Palanpur), Un, Chandisar and Amirgadh. The last branch at Kumbhasan was opened in 1973-74. Thus in 1973-74 besides the head office at Palanpur, the bank had 25 branches in the district. The progress made by the bank since 1960-61 to 1973-74 is briefly reviewed below.

Financial Operations—The individual membership declined from 1984 to 1354 due to the policy of the Reserve Bank to restrict such membership. However, the number of member societies increased from 735 to 877. The financial operations of the bank have witnessed sizeable expansion. The paid-up capital went up from Rs. 13.88 lakhs to Rs. 58.06 lakhs. Deposits increased from Rs. 42.06 lakhs to Rs. 304.02 lakhs. The working capital rose from Rs. 93.65 lakhs to Rs. 452.28 lakhs. The amount advanced increased from Rs. 54.96 lakhs to Rs. 215.42 lakhs and the reserve and other funds went up from Rs. 0.68 lakh to Rs. 18.74 lakhs. The bank has also made a satisfactory progress in respect of recoveries.

Insurance

Besides banks, insurance is another avenue open for the public to invest a part of their income. Premium is collected on different



types of policies, providing certain guarantees to the persons insured in the event of calamities. In India, since 1956, the life insurance business has been nationalised and the Life Insurance Corporation of India is the foremost and largest single agency doing life insurance business in the country. But the general insurance business which includes fire, marine, accident, etc., was kept open to private enterprise till May, 1971 when it was also nationalised by the Government of India. The data about general insurance are not available.

In the organisational and administrative set-up, the Banaskantha district is placed under the jurisdiction of the Ahmadabad Division of the Corporation. The number of agents canvassing insurance business in the district numbered 288 in 1973-74. From 1970-71 to 1973-74, the Corporation issued in the district 18,459 life insurance policies valued at Rs. 1,42,89,295. The total premia collected during this period amounted to Rs. 54,37,038.

SMALL SAVINGS

Apart from commercial and co-operative banks and societies, the agencies doing the work of collection of small savings are the Post Offices and the Life Insurance Corporation.

One of the ways to combat inflation is to reduce the available money supply with the public. In this sphere small savings play a significant role as they attempt to withdraw excess purchasing power from the public by encouraging the habit of thrift among the people. Further more, the realisation of amounts far in excess of sums originally invested at the end of a stipulated period acts as a powerful inducement to the public at large, who are tempted to economise and set a part of their income for such investments.

Small Savings scheme dates back to the First World War period (1914-18), when the Government of India introduced the Postal Cash Certificates. During the World War II (1939-45), the Government of India started in 1943 the Post Office National Savings Certificates for the above purposes.

In the Palanpur State a Small Savings Scheme was organised and a Committee was formed for the purpose of popularising



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the scheme on the lines approved by the Government of India. The National Savings Adviser, Rajputana who visited Palanpur in July 1946 was satisfied about the work carried out by the State. The total amount invested in the National Savings Certificates during the year 1945-46 amounted to Rs. 1,96,425.¹

Similarly in the Radhanpur State the total amount invested was Rs. 7,51,000 in Defence loans and Rs. 85,000 in Small Savings Certificates.²

There was rise in the income during the War period. Prices had increased considerably due to increased spending for War purposes. Further Planning was introduced in the country after Independence. Large resources were, therefore, needed for investments in agriculture, industry, etc. The Government of India, therefore, launched a series of Small Savings Schemes with handsome interest rates to attract people to invest. The following statement shows the extent of investment in the different schemes.

STATEMENT VI.6

Small Savings

(IN THOUSAND RUPEES)

Sl. No.	Category	Gross collections during				
		1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
1.	National Savings Certificates and	322	375	383	367	1493
2.	10-Year Defence Deposit Certificates.					
3.	15-Year Annuity Certificates					
4.	Cumulative Time Deposit Schemes.	363	557	668	1223	1170
5.	Post Office Savings Bank ..	1021	1558	626	525	1962
	Total ..	1706	2490	1677	2115	4625

Source :
Collector, Palanpur.

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANIES

In 1974, there were only two private limited companies registered in the district, i. e., one at Dhanera and another at Palanpur. Of these, one was a theatre and the other an industrial estate. Their paid-up capital amounted to Rs. 1,49,600. There were no public limited companies in the district. This shows the industrial backwardness of the region.

1. *Summary Report of the Administration of the Palanpur State, 1945-46*, p. 9.
2. *Administration Report of the Radhanpur State, 1944-45*, p. 3.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRIES

The industrial picture of India was far from satisfactory prior to Independence, as the country was dominated by the foreign power. The country was treated as the market for the inflow of finished products from Great Britain. The railways which were laid down in the country apart from helping industrialisation of the area encouraged export of the raw-materials from the country through the port towns. Not that entrepreneurial skill was lacking in the country but the diversification of industries could not take place due to a number of factors.

However, the Second World War served as an incentive to industries. After Independence the existing dependence on foreign countries in respect of finished goods was to be ended. With this end in view the Government of India formulated a policy resolution styled the Industries (Regulation and Control) Act in 1948 under which the industrial policy of the country was enunciated.

For a rapid industrialisation in the country provision of finance and technical know-how is a *sine que non*. Therefore, the Government of India decided to encourage and streamline institutional finance. For increasing the technical know-how technical schools I. T. I., and colleges and industrial research institutions were established in the country. The Industrial Finance Corporation was set up in 1948 for providing capital to large industries like mining, power, etc. Soon thereafter a score of others were established in the country for channelling private and foreign capital into industrial expansion. Besides Industrial Finance Corporation, the institutions established by the Government of India for providing capital, technical assistance, etc., to large, medium and small industries are the National Industrial Development Corporation (1954), the Industrial Development Bank (1964) and the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (1955).

The various State Governments established financial corporations in their respective States on the lines of Industrial Finance Corporation. In Gujarat the Gujarat State Financial Corporation (1960) was first of such institutions in the field. Thereafter the Gujarat Small Industries Corporation (1962), the Gujarat Indu-



1981 -Banaskantha District Gazetteers Gujarat State (1317)

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Industrial Development Corporation (1962), the Gujarat Industrial Investment Corporation (1968) and the Gujarat Industrial Co-operative Bank (1970) were set up by the State Government for providing finance, technical know-how, machinery on hire purchase and other assistance for rapid industrial expansion in the State.

The financial assistance and other services provided by these institutions for industrial development in the Banaskantha district are shown in the following statement. The types of units which availed of such assistance are also mentioned therein.

STATEMENT VI.7

Institutional Finance to Industries, Banaskantha District

Name of the Institutions	Type of Units assisted	Number of Units assisted	Amount of assistance sanctioned	Remarks
1. Gujarat State Financial Corporation, Ahmadabad.	Manufacture of food, textile, non-Metallic Mineral products, Machinery and Road transport operators.	56	Rs. 36.11 lakhs	upto 31-12-1973
2. Gujarat Industrial Investment Corporation, Ahmadabad.	Wooden card box, plastic jewellery box, lime, Acrylic sheets, petrol pumps, salt works, Agricultural equipment, etc.	10	Rs. 3.66 lakhs.	upto 31-3-1973
3. Gujarat Small Industries Corporation,		2	Rs. 0.33 lakh	upto 31-12-1973
4. Gujarat Industrial Co-operative Bank, Surat.	Saw mills, oil and rice mills, Metal products, tailoring, leather industry, embroidery, etc.	11	Rs. 2.26 lakhs	upto April 1973
5. Industrial Finance Corporation of India, New Delhi.	Nil.	..	..	
6. Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation, Bombay.	Nil.	..	..	
7. National Industrial Development Corporation, New Delhi.	Nil	..	..	
8. Industrial Development Bank, Bombay.	Road transport service, manufacture of agricultural equipment, cement products, spungipe, leather and leather products, lubricating boxes, ice factory, agricultural equipment, printing works, groundnut oil, etc.	36	Rs. 22.20 lakhs.	upto 28-2-1974
				Refinance Assistance

*Source :

Compiled from the information supplied by respective institutions.

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CURRENCY AND COINAGE

Information about coins current in the district in ancient period is not available. It can, however, be presumed that coins issued by the Gupta, Valabhi and other monarchs of Hindu period must have been used by the people during that period. In 1917, from the Vadia village of Deodar taluka silver Punch Mark coins were excavated. Similarly the coins issued during Mahommedan period, *i.e.*, of Gujarat Sultans including the Mughals were legal tender in this part of the State. Silver rupees and copper coins called *dams* issued by the Mughal emperor were exchanged freely in Gujarat. After the fall of Mughals, the Nawab and other kings in Gujarat assumed sovereign powers and struck their own coins. *Shikai* currency introduced by the Mahommedan ruler of Ahmadabad was in use in Ahmadabad and in areas adjacent to it including Palanpur. This currency continued even during the period of the Marathas.

In 1817, on taking over charge from Gaekwar of the city of Ahmadabad, Mr. Dunlop found the mint closed and the supply of circulating medium so low as to seriously impede the trade. He soon administered relief by issuing a large quantity of new *shikai* rupees valued at 93.292 rupees per hundred. Because of the frequent fluctuations in the exchange rate and their short supply, *shikai* currency was withdrawn from circulation in Ahmadabad from 1850 by the then Collector Mr. M. L. Balington, a British citizen. However, it continued in circulation in the neighbouring areas of Kadi and Palanpur. Palanpur State also experienced these difficulties of the *shikai* coins and it seriously desired to replace the *shikai* pieces by British Imperial coins. But it could not withdraw these coins because they continued to be in circulation in the adjoining Gaekwar territory, *i. e.*, the Kadi prant. However, in 1896 the Baroda State withdrew from its territory *shikai* coins from the circulation and introduced the British currency. Palanpur State also followed suit and in 1896 (20-5-1896), as a measure of reform on the occasion of birthday celebration of Queen Victoria, introduced the British currency as a legal tender in place of *shikai* coins. At the time of the change, 104-11-0 (*shikai*) rupees were exchanged for a hundred British rupees. It was roughly calculated that about 20 lakhs of *shikai* rupees were in all to be replaced by *kuldar* rupees. This resulted in big loss to the Palanpur Durbar and his people.



Thus after 1896 the British India currency of rupees, annas and pies was legal tender throughout the Palanpur State.

Radhanpur State Coinage

In Radhanpur State, coins, called Jorawarshahi issued by its Nawab were in circulation, but no information is available as to the year when such coins were first introduced. It appears from the records that a contract was given to a local artisan to mint such coins. They were prepared without any machinery and were therefore crude in shape. The weight of a Jorawarshahi rupee of pure silver was equal to 1 *tola*. The name of the ruler was inscribed on it in Urdu language. Besides silver currency, copper coins known as '*Katakiya* or *Najusai*' were also in circulation. One Imperial rupee fetched 128 such *Najusai* copper coins. On these copper coins the letters "જો (Jo)" and "બી (Bi)" signifying Jorawarsinhji (1825-74) and Bismilakhanji (1874-1895) were inscribed.

Similarly dates of withdrawal of the Radhanpur currency and of introduction of the British Indian currency of rupees, annas and pies are not available.

Besides the *shikai* currency in Palanpur and Jorawarshahi currency in Radhanpur States, in some villages of Radhanpur and Santalpur talukas bordering on Kutch district the *kutchi kori* was also in circulation. However it should be noted that by the end of the 19th century, these local currencies were replaced by the British Indian currency, which continued to be legal tender even after Independence, though the Imperial marks on currency notes and coins were replaced by inscribing the national emblem. In the old system there were coins of a pie, half paisa, a paisa, 2 paisa (*dhabu*), one anna, two anna, four anna, 8 anna and a rupee. A rupee was equal to sixteen anna or sixty four paisa or 192 pies-*i.e.*, an anna was equal to four paisa or 12 pies. This obnoxious conversion system was replaced by decimal system whereunder one rupee is equal to a hundred paise, *i.e.*, a multiple of ten.

Decimal Coinage

The British system of currency and coinage was not in consonance with the currency systems obtaining in other coun-



tries of the world, where decimal system was in vogue. Great difficulty was, therefore, experienced in day to day transactions as well as in overseas trade. To get rid of this difficulty, the Government of India introduced in April 1957, the decimal system wherein a rupee is divided into a hundred paise instead of 64 paise. Coins bearing Imperial designs were gradually withdrawn from the circulation and after 1961 the decimal coinage remains the legal tender. At present coins are issued in the denominations of 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 50 paise and one rupee and currency notes in the denominations of 1,2,5,10,20,50,100, and 1000 rupees.¹

B—Trade and Commerce

In order to get a proper perspective of trade in the past in the Banaskantha district, it is necessary to have an idea of its former course and direction. A review of the conditions of trade and commerce obtaining in the past is briefly given below :

FORMER COURSE

In the past, there were cross country tracks for transport of men and material through carts but roads in the modern sense did not exist within the limits of the Palanpur Superintendency. Rajputana traders on way to Dholera, generally passed through Palanpur, and those going to Kachchh passed through Tharad or Vav. In Palanpur, the roads deep with sandy layer required six or eight bullocks for heavily laden carts. In Tharad goods were generally carried on carts or on camels.

In the areas now covered under Banaskantha district, before the advent of railways, trade routes connected Marwar, Mehsana Prant, Kathiawar and Sindh. One land route passed through the Little Rann of Kachchh and trade with Sindh was carried on *via* Nagar Thatta. Another trade route leading to Viramgam and Harij passed through Radhanpur and Santalpur. This route also connected Radhanpur, with the port of Bhavnagar. There is a Radhanpuri bazaar in Bhavnagar which speaks of its trade connections with Radhanpur. Similarly, trade was carried on with Rajasthan through Tharad and Mt. Abu. Palanpur, Deesa and Sihori were connected with Patan. Most of the wholesale trade was in foodgrains, *ghee* and raw wool. As

1, The Government of India demonetised Currency notes of the Value of Rs. One thousand and above with effect from January, 1978.



the roads were in bad condition and there was trouble of anti-social element on the border lines, wholesale trade with Sindh and part of Marwad bordering Barmer was limited. After the advent of railways, Palanpur and Deesa became the centres of trade.

The chief articles of export, were saltpetre, grain, rape-seed, sesamum, cotton, the perfumes, cattle and clarified butter. Imports consisted of tobacco, fruits, spices, molasses, sugarcane, sugar and cotton and silk cloth. The estimated yearly value of the whole trade, equally divided between exports and imports, was about Rs. 10 to 15 lakhs. The exports went chiefly to Marwar, Kutch, Kathiawar, Gujarat, and Bombay. Among exports those of oxen of the Vadhiar, Kankrej and Deesa breeds, were the largest. Of the imports the fruits, spices, tobacco, and sugar were imported from Bombay, Kaira, Parkar and Marwar; the cotton cloth from Bombay; and the silks from Ahmedabad and Pali.¹ The local manufacture of perfumes attracted traders from Marwar and other places. Its chief exports were clarified butter, sesamum, rapeseed, honey, and wax, and its chief imports were iron, groceries, molasses, tobacco, ivory and cloth.

Radhanpur was an emporium of the Marwar and Kutch trade and had as its traders, men of property and extensive commerce. The chief exports were rapeseeds, gram, cotton, clarified butter, wheat and hides. *Ghee*, wheat and hides were sent to Bhavnagar. The chief imports in Radhanpur were rice, molasses, tobacco, cloth, metals, grocery and ivory.

The chief exports of Tharad were grain, clarified butter, sesamum and oxen; and chief imports were cloth, molasses, grocery and tobacco.

The trade of the Vav taluka was much the same as in Tharad.

Post-Independence Period

In the post-Independence period, trade has become more diversified due to abolition of princely pockets from the country, which helped remove the old barriers to trade and commerce. Obnoxious duties and levies have been scrapped and there is free

¹ CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha*, (1880), p. 299.



intercourse of people from one region to another. Further, development of rail routes and roads have also provided a much needed fillip to trade. After the construction of Deesa--Kandla and Bhiladi--Ranivada metre gauge railway lines, Varahi, Bhabhar and Bhildi have developed as trade centres. Expansion of commercial banking has led to grant of liberal advances to trading community. These factors have led to a great increase in trade, though there are inter-regional variations in the volume of trade. Banaskantha being one of the very backward districts in the State, its economy is also primarily dependent on agriculture. There is, therefore, not much of trade and commerce, still broad trends in trade have been indicated below.

IMPORTS

At present, the imports in the district consist of the following categories. Among cereals and pulses, rice, gram, wheat, jowar and peas are imported from other parts of Gujarat and from Punjab, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Groundnut oil is imported from Saurashtra. Dry fruits, and fruits such as mangoes are imported from outside the State from Madras, Andhra Pradesh and from Valsad, Junagadh and Bhavnagar from Gujarat State. Apples are imported from Simla. Potatoes are locally produced in great quantities and onion from Saurashtra and Sidhpur. Among the different varieties in textiles, cotton *sarees* are imported from Ahmadabad and Rajkot, Banarsi *sarees* from Banaras and voils from a Bombay. Cotton cloth is imported from Ahmadabad and Bombay, and woollen cloth from Bombay and Uttar Pradesh. Handloom made woollen cloth is imported from Bombay and Rajasthan. Ready-made garments are mostly purchased from Bombay and Ahmadabad. Cloth manufactured out of nylon is imported from Surat, Bombay, Ahmadabad, etc. Stationery articles such as fountain-pens, ink, pensils, pins, slates etc., are imported from Bombay, Ahmadabad and Mirzapur (U.P.). Tea and coffee, are imported from Calcutta, Cochin, and Mysore, salt is imported from Saurashtra. Miscellaneous articles such as hardware and metal are imported from Punjab, Ludhiana, Mahesana and Rajkot. Medicines are also imported from the centres of manufacture like Bombay, Calcutta and Vadodara. Ironware and tinware are brought from Delhi, building materials like cement from Sevalia, Dwarka, Porbandar and Sikka, while leather goods are imported from Calcutta and Kanpur. Raw diamonds are imported from Bombay. *Ghee* is imported from Kachchh area.



EXPORTS

As compared to imports, exports are fewer. Banaskantha district supplies potatoes to the whole of Gujarat, Bombay and Delhi. Cotton is exported to Saurashtra and Gujarat. The district is the largest producer of *bajri* which is exported to other parts of Gujarat. At present, Banaskantha ranks among the largest producers of pulses in the whole of Gujarat which are also exported to other centres of the State. Raw wool known as “Jodia Wool” is exported to foreign countries through the port of Jamnagar (Bedi). Diamonds after cutting are exported to Bombay. Radhanpur and Palanpur export *ghee* to Bombay and to other parts of Gujarat. Handloom cloth from Kanodar is exported to Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Markets—The former Gazetteer of Palanpur mentions that trade was carried on at permanent markets, the leading trade centres being Palanpur, Radhanpur and Deesa. On account of road side robbery and competition of railways, traffic came to a stand still on the old highway between Marwar and Gujarat through Pali and Palanpur.¹

In modern times, wholesale trade is generally concentrated in the large towns and cities where needs of retailers, wholesalers, and general public are met. Palanpur, Dessa, Bhabhar, Dhanera, Radhanpur, Thara, Varahi, Tharad and Vadgam have become the important wholesale trade centres in the district. Palanpur, being the headquarters of the district is naturally the receiving and distributing centre for practically the whole district. At all these centres the practice of charging brokerage, quality allowance weighing, etc., is in vogue and the charges are generally uniform in all the markets, with slight local variations. A brief description of each of these centres is given below. These places also function as retail marketing centres.

Palanpur—Situated on the Ahmadabad-Delhi metre gauge railway line with a branch line leading to the major port of Kandla via Deesa, it was the capital of the former class one State of Palan-

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha*, (1880), p. 300.



pur and is now the headquarters of the district. Roads connect it with other taluka centres as well as places in the adjoining districts in and outside the State. It is famous for its manufactures of perfumes and diamond cutting and polishing industry.

Bajri, wheat, pulses, *jeera*, *variali*, *gur*, *raido*, *isabgul*, etc., are the main products of the district. Palanpur is the main centre for exportation of *raido* to Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Radhanpur—It is the headquarters of the taluka and a railway station on Palanpur--Gandhidham railway line. It is also connected by roads with the important centres in and outside the district, *bajri*, *jowar*, wheat and cotton are the chief commodities of the wholesale trade at Radhanpur.

Deesa—Situated on the bank of the river Banas, it is the headquarters of the taluka and railway station on Palanpur--Gandhidham railway section of the Western Railway. It is an important trade centre for potatoes grown in abundance in the bed of the river Banas. There are several oil mills and wool processing factories working on small scale. It is an important trade centre of the district. The main commodities of wholesale trade are *bajri*, wheat and pulses.

Bhabhar—It is another wholesale trade centre on the Palanpur-Gandhidham railway line. It is also connected by bus routes with Radhanpur, Deodar, Suigam and Vav. It is one of the important trade centres of foodgrains in the Banaskantha district. *Bajri*, sesamum and pulses are the main commodities of wholesale trade.

Dhanera—It is the headquarters of the taluka of that name. It is connected by roads with other centres of the district. It is a railway station on the Bhildi-Raniwada section of the Northern Railway. The chief commodities of the wholesale trade are wheat, *bajri*, *sursav*, and castor seeds.

Thara—It is situated about 20 km., from Deodar. It is not connected by railway, but it is situated halfway between the railway stations of Radhanpur and Bhildi. It is connected by roads with Radhanpur, Bhildi, Deodar and Palanpur. It is also connected by the Bhuj-Ahmadabad highway. It is an important



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marketing centre for the surrounding villages. The special features of the centre are that there are sufficient irrigation facilities in the whole taluka. Wheat, pulses, cumin seeds and *isabgul* are the main commodities of wholesale trade.

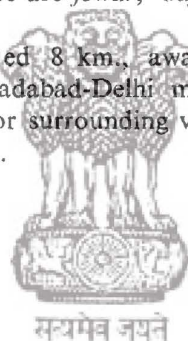
Varahi—It is the headquarters of the Santalpur taluka since 1954 and a railway station on the Palanpur-Gandhidham section of the Western Railway. The main arrivals of the centre are *bajri*, wheat, castorseed, cotton and *raido*.

Tharad—It is the headquarters of taluka, connected with Deesa on the east and Suigam on the west by an asphalt road on which State transport buses ply regularly. It is also connected with Rajasthan through the Tharad-Sanchor Highway. The main transactions in the said centre are *jowar*, *bajri* and pulses.

Vadgam—It is situated 8 km., away from Umardeshi, a railway station on the Ahmadabad-Delhi metre gauge railway line. It is a marketing centre for surrounding villages growing crops like *bajri*, sugarcane and rice.

REGULATED MARKETS

Historical Background



Till the Second World War, an average Indian agriculturist almost lived and died in debt. He often inherited debt from his ancestors. Subsisting on small fragmented piece of land, which too was often not owned by him but lay mortgaged to a local *sahukar*, the farmer looked like an incarnation of poverty. The main causes could be ascribed to (i) his illiterate condition (ii) uneconomic holding (iii) borrowing for unproductive purposes like marriage and death ceremonies and other social occasions, and (iv) his obligations to repay ancestral debt. The local traders-cum-money-lenders exploited this position to the utter neglect of principles of social justice. The cultivator was also man-handled in respect of sale of his produce, its weightment, market dues and settlement of price of produce by secret signs. To add further to his miseries, the Great Depression of 1929 A. D., brought down prices of farm produce precipitately and the returns for farm operations were reduced heavily.



Looking to such a pathetic condition of farmers, the question of establishing regulated markets for obtaining equity in bargaining power of agriculturists was seriously considered by Government. The Royal Commission on Agriculture which was appointed in 1928 suggested *inter alia* establishment of regulated markets at important centres to give the farmers a fair deal in respect of sale, weighment, market charges, etc.

Regulated Markets in the District

The Bombay Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1939 was applied to the Palanpur State, but no market was established till 1947 under the said Act. After Independence, the first regulated market at Deesa was established in the year 1951. Later on, such markets were established at Palanpur and Bhabhar in the year 1955. After the formation of Gujarat State, markets at Dhanera and Radhanpur were established in 1960. In 1963, the Government repealed and replaced the Bombay Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1939, by the Gujarat Agricultural Produce Markets Act. All regulated markets in the State are now governed by this Act. The three markets at Thara, Tharad and Varahi were established in the year 1966. Thus the total number of regulated markets in the district was 8 in 1972-73.

The Statement VI.8 below shows the details about the constitution of regulated markets in the district and commodities regulated in each of them.

The Composition of Markets

The traders, general commission agents, brokers weighmen and *hamals* constitute the main market functionaries. Their strength in each market during 1972-73 was as follows :

1. Deesa (3,997), 2. Palanpur (1,861), 3. Thara (829),
4. Dhanera (579), 5. Bhabhar (494), 6. Tharad (383), 7. Radhanpur (299), 8. Varahi (121).

These persons held valid licences issued by each market committees on payment of prescribed fees.



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STATEMENT VI.8

Regulated Agricultural Produce Markets in the District 1970-71

Sl. No.	Name of the Market Committee and Headquarters	Sub-yard (if any)	Area covered	Year of establishment	Commodities regulated
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Palanpur ..	..	Palanpur and Vadgam Talukas	1955	Wheat, <i>jowar</i> , <i>bajri</i> , paddy, gram, <i>isabgul</i> , groundnut, etc.
2.	Deesa ..	Bhildi	Deesa Taluka	1951	Sesamum, wheat, <i>bajri</i> , <i>jowar</i> , gram, <i>isabgul</i> , groundnut, etc.
3.	Bhabhar ..	Deodar	Bhabhar and Deodar Talukas	1955	Rice, gram, wheat, <i>bajri</i> , <i>jowar</i> , <i>isabgul</i> , sesamum and groundnut.
4.	Dhanera ..	..	Dhanera Taluka	1960	Wheat, <i>bajri</i> , <i>jowar</i> , rice, gram, sesamum, <i>isabgul</i> , groundnut.
5.	Radhanpur ..	..	Radhanpur Taluka	1960	<i>Bajri</i> , wheat, <i>jowar</i> , gram, sesamum, cotton, rice, groundnut.
6.	Thara ..	Sihori	Kankrej	1966	<i>Bajri</i> , <i>jowar</i> , wheat, gram, <i>isabgul</i> , cotton, sesamum, groundnut, <i>jowar</i> (red), etc.
7.	Tharad ..	..	Tharad Taluka	1966	<i>Bajri</i> , wheat, <i>jowar</i> , sesamum, <i>isabgul</i> etc.
8.	Varahi ..	..	Santalpur Taluka	1966	<i>Bajri</i> , wheat, <i>jowar</i> , gram, cotton, groundnut, etc.

Source :

District Census Handbook 1971, Banaskantha, Part X—C— I, p. 19.

Market Charges

The Statement VI.9 that follows gives details of market charges in some of the regulated markets:

STATEMENT VI.9

Market Charges

Commodity	Weighing		Commission		Brokerage	
	Unit	charges	Unit	charges	Unit	charges
<i>Palanpur--1971--72</i>						
<i>Jiru</i> , <i>Variyali</i> and <i>Isabgul</i>	..		per Rs. 100	0.75	..	..
All controlled products except <i>Jiru</i> , <i>Variyali</i> and <i>Isabgul</i>	..		per Rs. 100	1.00	..	..
All controlled products except <i>Jiru</i> , <i>Variyali</i> and groundnut.	per 100 kg.	0.08	..	..	..	..
<i>Jiru</i> , <i>Variyali</i>	per 100 kg.	0.16	..	..	..	..
Groundnut	per 100 kg.	0.15	..	..	..	..

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STATEMENT VI.9—(Contd.)

Commodity	Weighing		Commission		Brokerage	
	Unit	charges	Unit	charges	Unit	charges
<i>Deesa — 1962-73</i>						
<i>Mug, Math, Val, Chola, Tuver, Guvar, Sarsav, Tal, etc.</i>	per 10 kg	0.03	per Rs. 100	1.00	..	..
<i>Sarsav, Tal, Isabgul, Jiru, Groundnut</i>	per 10 kg	0.04	..	..	..	..
<i>Tharad--1971-72</i>						
All controlled products	per bori 100 kg.	0.12	per Rs.100	1.00	..	..

Source : *Annual Reports of A. P. M. C., Palanpur, Deesa and Tharad.*

Transactions in Regulated Markets

During 1958-59¹ transactions in regulated commodities amounted to 4,21,360 quintals, valued approximately at Rs. 1.83 crores. These figures increased to 11,96,530 quintals, valued at Rs. 19.28 crores in 1972-73. This shows that farmers in the district are taking advantage offered by the regulated markets. The quantum of arrivals of regulated commodities in each market during the year 1972-73 is shown below :

Statement showing Transactions in Regulated Markets during 1972-73

Sl. No.	Name of the Market	Quantity (Quintals)	Value in Rs. (app.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Deesa	3,44,148	5,43,72,349
2.	Palanpur	3,23,119	4,91,60,689
3.	Bhabhar	2,54,596	3,99,98,606
4.	Dhanera	32,143	86,08,048
5.	Radhanpur	43,402	73,67,435
6.	Thara	88,162	1,78,03,620
7.	Varahi	55,111	61,69,242
8.	Tharad	55,849	93,48,752
	Total	11,96,530	19,28,28,741

Source : Assistant District Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Banaskantha District, Palanpur.

The statement reveals that the highest transactions (both in quantity and value) were noticed at the Deesa market and the lowest in the Varahi market.

¹ *Socio Economic Review and District Statistical Abstract of Banaskantha District, (1958-59), pp. 19-21.*



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The reasons are that Deesa is geographically centrally situated and is connected by both rail and roads to other centres in and outside the district, whereas Varahi is located at the fag end of the district on way to little Rann of Kachchh. Further Varahi depends on kharif crops only and is in an arid zone.

Commodities are brought to the regulated markets and sold in the market yards by open auction. Brokerage, market charges, etc., are recovered as per rules. The highest bidder purchases the stocks and are then distributed on the wholesale basis and the remaining is exported outside the district, mainly to Ahmadabad, Unjha, Mahesana, Vadodara, Surat and to Saurashtra in the State. Outside the State, main customers are in the States of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Delhi and West Bengal where cummin seeds, *isabgul*, *raido*, etc., are sent. *Isabgul* from this district is processed at Sidhpur and Unjha and then exported to foreign countries also. While cummin seeds from this district are sent to Unjha and then sent to other centres.

Facilities

In each market of this district, facilities such as light, water and a storage are provided. Rest-house facilities is also provided. The data about prices ruling the markets are published in important newspapers and broadcast from the All-India Radio, Ahmadabad--Vadodara. These returns are also supplied to concerned authorities in the State and the Centre.

NUMBER OF TRADERS

The following Statement VI.10 shows the number of traders in the Banaskantha district.

STATEMENT VI.10
Traders

Categories		Persons		Employed	
		1951	1961	1971	
Total	..	11,987	15,912	14,729	
1. Wholesale Trade	..	100	650	1,029	
2. Retail Trade	..	11,169	14,821	12,107	
3. Trade and Commerce	..	718	441	1,593	
Miscellaneous					

Source : District Census Handbooks, 1951, 1961 and 1971. Banaskantha District.



It shows that the number of persons employed in trade and commerce accounted for 3.75 per cent of the total working population and 1.16 per cent of the total in 1971. (1.60 per cent in the previous 1951 census). Further during the last 20 years (1951--71), the numbers of traders increased by 22.87 per cent. Those engaged in retail trade accounted for as much as 82.19 per cent of total traders, which shows the monopoly of retail merchants. Even among the retailers, those dealing in essential commodities like food and clothing accounted for as much as 70 per cent of the total traders in the 1971 Census.

Retail Trade

Retail trade is carried on by a large number of shops both in the urban and rural areas and caters to the needs of the local inhabitants. These traders usually obtain their goods on credit generally from local merchants of means or from those in bigger towns and settle bills periodically. Their stock in trade is limited and it generally depends upon their financial condition, popularity and local demand. Retailers quickly replenish items which are in demand among the people. The capacity of retailers in rural and semi-urban areas for keeping large stocks of goods is, in most cases, limited on account of their limited financial resources and maintain stocks sufficient for their normal sales. But their counterparts in cities and towns, because of their better financial position and social reputation and status, keep large stocks for meeting requirements of petty traders and of local public. The brisk season for business generally lasts from October to June, because the rest of the period being generally covered by monsoon, people usually avoid celebrations of social functions like marriage. However, dealings in *pan-bidi*, tobacco, etc., are normal throughout the year but brisk during festivals or holidays. In other branches too, transaction in retail trade particularly are prominent during such festivals as the Holi, the Dassera, the Diwali and the marriage season. Retail sales are usually made against cash, but running accounts of customers known to traders are opened and settled periodically.

Retail sales are generally distributed in the following branches;
(i) grocery shops selling cereals, pulses, spices, *gur* groundnut and sesamum, oil, *ghee*, tea, coffee, condiments, dry fruits, baking soda, menthol crystals, catechu, *agarbatti*, etc., (ii) *pan-bidi* and toba-



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cco shops, which are generally one man establishments sell *pan* (betel leaves), *bidi*, cigarettes, cigars, match boxes, etc., (iii) cloth and hosiery shops which deal in all kinds of textiles, in cotton, woollen, silk and synthetic fibres and other super varieties of cloth and having a wide range of clothing such as shirting, coating, *sarees*, *dhoties*, *malmal*, *chhint*, voils and hosiery articles of all sorts and varieties, (iv) fuel and charcoal shops, (v) stationery and hosiery shops, (vi) fruits and vegetables shops, (vii) shops selling household utensils of brass, copper, aluminium, german silver and stainless steel, (viii) hardware and building materials, (ix) leather goods and footwear.

Retail marketing centres are situated in almost all areas. As the population has increased and modes of communications have improved, retail shops have sprung up even in remote rural areas and on highways. Among the retail trading centres, Palanpur, occupies a pivotal place, being the chief distributing centre for the whole district. Other retail markets are Deesa, Bhabhar, Radhanpur, Tharad, Vadgam and Dhanera.

CO-OPERATION IN WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE

After the development of co-operative movement consequent upon the launching of the planning era, there has been a great diversification in the co-operative sphere, which embraces activities like, building, ginning and pressing, production of sugar, fertilisers and sale of essential consumer goods. In the Banaskantha district the Banaskantha District Co-operative Purchase and Sale Union was established in the year 1961--62. Besides the head office at Palanpur it has offices at the taluka headquarters and are named the Taluka Purchase and Sale Unions. Such unions are located at Palanpur, Vadgam, Tharad, Radhanpur, Deodar, Deesa and Dhanera. These unions undertake sale of foodgrains, groundnut oil, fertilisers, agricultural implements, cement and controlled cloth at fair and reasonable prices. The total value of goods sold during the year 1973--74 amounted to Rs 2.53 crores with a profit of Rs. 2.55 lakhs. Thus, there is a fusion of private traders as well as co-operative organisations in trade. The impact of co-operative selling is not altogether insignificant and has brought a restraint on prices.



FAIR PRICE SHOPS

On account of the exigencies of the Second World War, there was an abnormal rise in the prices of essential commodities like cereals, pulses, cloth, sugar, *gur*, kerosene, etc. The measures taken by the former Palanpur and Radhanpur States for providing relief to their people are summarised below :

*Palanpur*¹

The State took following measures : (1) the export of food-grains and essential commodities was prohibited, (2) the prices of wheat, *bajri*, *jowar*, kerosene and cement were controlled. Dealers were required to furnish the statements of their stocks from time to time and penal action was taken in cases of default, (3) rationing was introduced in Palanpur and Deesa in respect of wheat and *bajri*. These commodities were sold at lower rates to the inhabitants of the urban areas through licensed dealers, (4) a cheap grain shop was opened at Palanpur for the sale of wheat and *bajri* at reduced rates to poor people, (5) a committee of non-officials was appointed to carry out the arrangements, (6) the Essential Commodities Order prohibited the sale of wheat, *bajri*, *jowar*, cement and kerosene, without a license, (7) the State also promulgated the Palanpur Sugar control Order, 1942, and appointed a Sugar Controller for the control of distribution of sugar, (8) a Control and Supply Advisory Committee consisting of six non-official members in Palanpur was constituted to assist the control and supply Department. Ration cards were issued for the distribution of sugar and kerosene, (9) the Palanpur Gur Control Order was passed under which the selling prices of imported *gur* were fixed from time to time, (10) the State also prohibited the feasting of more than 50 persons at a time, and (11) the State, issued the Anti-smuggling, (Prevention of Export) Ordinance in 1943, to deal with smuggling, effectively and also opened six temporary out-posts to check smuggling.

The Palanpur State Customs Act was amended to provide for payment of rewards to informants from out of the sale proceeds of smuggled articles upto the maximum of $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the amount of fine or of the sale proceeds of the smuggled articles.

¹ *Summary Report of the Administration of the Palanpur State, 1941-42, pp. 6-7.*



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A system of passes was introduced for the movement of banned commodities from one village to another within the State. Owing to the shortage of cloth, a ban was placed on the export of cotton, woollen and silk cloth which was imported into the State. The State co-operated with the cloth distribution scheme of the Rajputana Agency, where under, a semi-wholesaler was appointed for the distribution of the cloth allotted to the State, and a distribution scheme was worked out. These arrangements resulted in great relief to the poor particularly those belonging to the villages.

The Grain Conservation Ordinance was promulgated during 1945-46, to prevent purchase and sale of wheat and other commodities without the permission of the State. With a view to conserve the stock of edible oil-seeds and edible-oils, the export thereof was restricted and their prices were controlled.

In order to provide an effective and speedy remedy for the prevention of export or smuggling of food-stuffs, etc., from the limits of the Palanpur State, the Anti-smuggling (Prevention of Export) Ordinance, 1944 had been issued. Its operation was also extended during the year.

CHEAP GRAIN SHOPS

The departmental management for procurement of wheat and food stuffs for the Cheap Grain Shops for supplying the same to the public as well as to the State servants was discontinued and the procurement and supply of food grains by contract system introduced during the previous year was continued during the year 1945-46.

Radhanpur State

The former Radhanpur State Administration reports give following details about fair price shops. The legislative measure taken by the State were.

- (a) Enforcement of the Foodgrains Control Order, and
- (b) Control of movement of foodgrains.

The State enforced the procurement scheme through the State Purchasing and Exporting Agency whereby maximum sur-

1. *Administration Report of the Radhanpur State* for the year 1944-45, pp. 3-4.



plus foodgrains like wheat, *bajri*, *jowar*, *mug*, barley, etc., were made available to the deficit areas.

There was scarcity of all essential commodities. With a view to exercising control over their supply and distribution and prohibiting their export and fixing up their prices, a separate Control Department was set up. The Department was under the Controller of Supplies and Prices. Several schemes for the purchase and distribution of local products were introduced and arrangements were made to obtain allotments of quotas of sugar, rice, kerosene, cloth, etc., which were not locally available. To ensure their equitable distribution among consuming public, a scheme controlling distribution was introduced in the State. Full-fledged rationing was introduced in the Radhanpur town. Arrangements to issue cards for cloth, grain, sugar, *gur*, etc., in all other towns and villages of the State and the attached areas were also made.

Post--Independence Period

The country witnessed partition and the holocaust that followed during which large scale migration of refugees on both sides took place. This, coupled with transfer of fertile lands to Pakistan, created food shortage in the country. Moreover Planning was ushered in order to raise standard of living of the masses. All these factors had a very serious impact on price mechanism. There was therefore price inflation in the whole country, which has continued unabated since then causing greater hardships to the common man. Except for a recession for a shorter duration in the year 1952, following the increase in Bank Rate and the lifting up of controls all throughout the country in 1954, the prices of essential commodities have risen unabatedly.

Further there has been a steady growth in the country's population since 1931 onwards. The increase in the food production has been more than neutralised on account of population explosion. Over and above this, on account of increase in the income after Independence., the bargaining capacity of big cultivators has increased *pari passu*. The tendency to hoard grains for better returns in future has been rampant among large cultivators. There is also considerable hoarding by traders, tending to create artificial scarcity in the markets. All these factors have greatly



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influenced the commodity price levels and essential foodgrains are no exception.

After the formation of Gujarat State, the Government has introduced a system whereunder foodgrains, groundnut oil and sugar are distributed under the family card system to the low income group families. These cards are registered with nearby fair price shop, authorised by Government.

The number of fair price shops increased from 176 in the year 1971--72 to 376 in 1972--73. These shops distributed wheat, rice, *bajra*, milo, gram, maize and other commodities. Besides sugar, groundnut oil and potatoes were also distributed at controlled rates.

During the years 1971--72 and 1972--73, 34,730 quintals and 2,02,568 quintals of these commodities valued approximately at Rs. 62.62 lakhs and Rs. 2.92 crores respectively were sold through these shops in the district. Thus the scheme has helped the people in low income groups but it has only affected marginally the rates ruling the open markets. The rationing scheme has thus provided relief to public in general to a certain extent.

FAIRS

Fairs are generally associated with deities, saints, religious festivals and local customs. The rural and tribal folk have some fascination for them on account of their pagentry. To them they are the only venues for maintaining social and cultural contacts along-with recreation. Formerly they also served as market places for the village people to purchase articles of daily consumption. Now the economic significance has receded into background owing to the availability of commodities of daily use in the village or town itself. On account of quick means of communications, spread of education, decreasing influence of religion and alternative modes of recreation and entertainment at home, fairs have lost their former significance. This district, being educationally and socially backward, the people flock together in large numbers to attend the fairs due to their religious sentiments.

From the view point of trade and commerce, articles of common consumption such as hot and cold drinks, *pan--bidi* and cigarettes, bangles, cheap ornaments, hosiery, etc., are brought to these fairs



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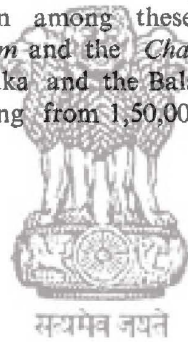
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for both display and sale in shops or booths specially created for the purpose. Looking to the large gatherings of the people, naturally there is enough of trade in different commodities, generally fetching handsome profits to the dealers.

In all 93 fairs are held in this district at different places and at different times of the year. The largest number of fairs (17) are held in the Kankrej taluka and the lowest (3) in the Santalpur taluka. Fourteen fairs are held in the Deesa taluka, and twelve in the Palanpur taluka, seven fairs each at Vadgam, Dhanera, Tharad, Deodar and Radhanpur talukas and six fairs each are held in Danta and Vav talukas respectively.

Among these fairs, 17 fairs as shown in the Statement VI.11 deserve special mention, in view of their popularity and consequent large congregation. Even among these the Navratri, the Dass-
sera, the *Bhadarvi Punam* and the *Chaitri Punam* fairs at Mota Ambaji in the Danta taluka and the Balaram fair at Chitrasani are attended by people ranging from 1,50,000 to 21,272.



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STATEMENT VI.11
Important Fairs, Banaskantha District

Sl. No. 1	Name/occasion 2	Place where held 3	Date of fair 4	Estimated congregation 5
1.	Balaram fair	Chitrasani (Palanpur taluka)	Every Monday of Shravan	10,000—15,000, 30,000-50,000 on the last Monday.
2.	Dungarpuri Bava fair	Shri Amirgadh (Palanpur taluka)	Phalgun Vad 8	8,000—10,000
3.	Shitla Mata fair, Shitla Saptami	Parpada (Palanpur taluka)	Shravan Vad 7	5,000—10,000
4.	Navratri, Dassera	Ambaji (Danta taluka)	Ashvin Sud 1—10	1,50,000
5.	Bhadarvi Punam	Ambaji (Danta taluka)	Bhadrapad Sud 15	24,332
6.	Chaitri Punam	Ambaji (Danta taluka)	Chaitra Sud 15	21,272
7.	Kartiki Punam	Ambaji (Danta taluka)	Kartik Sud 15	11,510
8.	Ramdev Pir Fair	Majadar (Vadgam mahal)	Bhadrapad Sud 11	10,000
9.	Mukheshwar Mahadev fair	Mokeshvar (Vadgam mahal)	Bhadrapad Sud 11	8,000—10,000
10.	Manibhadra Vir fair	Magarvada (Vadgam mahal)	Ashvin Sud 5	8,000
11.	Shitla Satam	Rupal (Vadgam mahal)	Shravan Vad 7	5,000—10,000
12.	Bhiladiyaji fair	Bhildi (Deesa taluka)	Margashirsh Vad 10	30,000—40,000
13.	Mahashivratri	Thara (Kankrej taluka)	Magh Vad 14	5,000
14.	Navani fair	Dhima (Vav taluka)	Jyeshtha Sud 15	14,500
15.	Dhuleti	Dhima (Vav taluka)	Phalgun Sud 11—Vad 1	11,750
16.	Indreshwar Mahadev fair	Indrava Juna (Deodar taluka)	Kartik Sud 15	5,000— 6,000
17.	Oghadji Maharaj fair	Oghadpura (Deodar taluka)	Ashadh Vad 15 (Amas)	5,000

Source :

District Census Handbook 1971, Banaskantha District, Part X-C-I.
More details about other fairs are given in the Chapter III—People of this Gazetteer.

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TRADE ASSOCIATIONS

No details on the subject are available from published sources, yet the existence of a crude form of trade association or the institution of *mahajan* cannot be ruled out especially in Gujarat, which is known as the land of traders. In the past, *Vanias* dealing in money, cloth, grain or grocery, and other communities following manufacturing occupations had each a trade--business guild or *mahajan* composed of the chief men of the community. The *vania mahajan* played a bigger role by giving guidance to other *mahajans* regarding development of their respective trades and also settled trade disputes. The leading men of the different *vania* castes were called *sheths* but they had no special trade functions to perform.

A trade association in the modern sense of the term is an outcome of the recent past. Trade and commerce are diversified and interests and problems of each branch differ very widely. Such associations, therefore, help in bringing about harmony among members, protect interests of trade in the face of Government legislation and present a concerted and joint action, wherever necessary. Trade association have been organised practically in all the branches of industry and trade and commerce. There is a federal body called the chamber of commerce to which individual associations are affiliated. This august body streamlines the activities of member associations and puts forth its views to authorities and gives guidance as to the expansion of business.

That trade and commerce is one of the principal economic activities is universally recognised. Realising the utility and importance of such organisations, the Central and State Governments nominate their representatives on the various committees and sub-committees appointed by them, and also invite the views of such bodies on many important economic problems such as taxation, fiscal policy, location of industry, licensing policy, etc.

Palanpur is already a receiving and distributing centre for the whole of the district. Trade and commerce have considerably expanded since Independence. Therefore, it is natural that trade associations have been organised to look after individual branches of trade and industry.



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There are two trade associations, i.e., (1) Grains Merchants' Association and (2) Kariyana Merchants' Association established at Palanpur. Some of the trade associations are working at taluka places in the district.

These associations cater to the needs of the business community of the Banaskantha district and help members in matters concerning their respective trades.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The weights and measures in vogue in the princely areas of the former Palanpur and Radhanpur States are briefly described below. Precious metals like gold and silver were weighed as follows :

6 rice grains = 1 *rati*
3 *rati* = 1 *val*
16 *vals* = 1 *gadiana*
2 *gadianas* = 1 *tola*

Articles of bulk were weighed similar to those in other parts of Gujarat, viz., seers and maund with similar denominations.

In Radhanpur State areas, grains were weighed as under :

20 weight Rupees = 1 *pavalu*
2 *pavalas* = 1 *adhvali*
2 *adhvalis* = 1 *pali*
5 *palis* = 1 *Manu*
4 *manas* = 1 *sai*
16 *sais* = 1 *kalsi*

The Palanpur grain measure was.

$1\frac{3}{8}$ *seers* = 40 Rupees weight each
one *adhvalis*.
2 *adhvalis* = 1 *pali*
6 *palis* = 1 *manu*
64 *manas* = 1 *kalsi*

In other parts of the States, the *pali* weighed from $1\frac{1}{2}$ *seers* to three *seers* of forty rupees weight each, and one *manu* contained from



four to seven *palis*. The measure of length was eighteen *tasus* or finger breadths, one *hath* or cubit twenty-four *tasus* one *gaj* $1\frac{1}{2}$ *gaj* one *var* (yard), $1\frac{1}{2}$ *vars* one *karam* and eighteen hundred *karams*, one *gau*. Land was measured by the following scale : $6\frac{1}{4}$ square *haths*, one square *karam*, fifty square *karams* one *uplu*, two square *uplus*, one *is*: and fifty square *is* one *oliava*. One *oliava* was equal to about $4\frac{1}{6}$ acres¹.

In the former states of Danta, Varahi and other estates of the Banaskantha district, the *seer* was equal to forty *tola*. One *tola* was equal to one imperial rupee and forty *seer* was equal to one maund, and sixteen maund was equal to one *kalsi*. Grains were weighed by “*pali*” which was equal to two *seers*. Cloth was measured by *gaj* or *hath* which was equal to twenty-four inches. Land measure was the *bigha* or *Manva* (i.e., one maund seeds that might be sown in it). The Bombay Weights and Measures Act, 1938 was adopted and applied in the Banaskantha Agency areas in 1942².

These weights and measures were used even after Independence. A majority of countries of the world had adopted the decimalised systems. The Government of India, therefore, introduced the metric system of weights and measures throughout the country for simplifying conversion and calculation. Under this system, the weights and measures were reduced to a multiple of ten. In Gujarat the use of the metric measure was made compulsory throughout the State from April 1962. Its enforcement is entrusted to the office of the Commissioner of Industries in the State. The salient features of the system are set out below.

(1) Length is measured in metres instead of in yards,
1 metre=1.09 yards.

(2) Distance is measured in kilometres instead of in miles,
1 km.=0.62 miles.

(3) Weight is measured into kilograms instead of in pounds (*Lb*) or *seer* 1 kg.=2.2 lbs, or 1.07 *seer* and quintal instead of a maund, 1 quintal=5.38 mds.

1. Campbell J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency, Vol. V, Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha*, (1880) p. 298.
2. On the basis of the information received from the Industries Inspector, Banaskantha district, Palanpur.



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(4) Area of land is now measured in hectres instead of in acres, 1 hectare=2.47 acres.

(5) Weight in *tolas* has been replaced by grams, 1 gram which is one thousand part of kilogram is equal to 0.086 *tolas*.

(6) Unit for valuable stone continue to be in carat 1 carat = one fifth of the gram=0.017 *tola*.

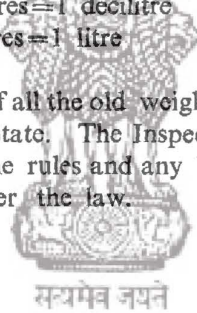
(7) Unit for volume and capacity are as under :
Litre=0.22 imperial gallon or volume of 86 *tolas* of pure water.

10 millilitres=1 centilitre

10 centilitres=1 decilitre

10 decilitres=1 litre

At present the use of all the old weights and measures has been banned throughout the State. The Inspector of Weights and Measures strictly enforces the rules and any breach under the Act and Rules is punishable under the law.





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CHAPTER VII COMMUNICATIONS

OLD-TIME TRADE ROUTES

Roads

Till Independence there were practically no hard surfaced roads in the district for movement of heavy vehicular traffic. Passengers and goods were carried on earthen tracks. The following extract from the former Gazetteer shows the old time routes passing through the district:

“Within the limits of the Palanpur Superintendency, there are cross country tracks but no made roads. Rajputana traders coming by Pali to Dholera, generally pass through Palanpur and those going to Cutch through Tharad or Vav. In Palanpur, the roads are deep with sand and for heavily laden carts six or eight bullocks are wanted. In the Tharad district where the ground is harder and the roads lighter, goods are generally carried on carts or on camels. In 1873-74, from Palanpur two and a half miles to Jagana, a rough road was made with broken bricks and tiles. In the east, the Western Rajputana State Railway opened for traffic on the 15th November, 1879 passes through about forty miles of the Superintendency.”¹

The above extract reveals that only a short road of 2½ miles length was built in the district as early as 1874.

Thus, till the end of the last century practically there was no road worth its name in the Banaskantha areas. Besides the two railway lines laid down in 1879 and 1893, other means of communications available to the district were the bullock carts, camels and other beasts of burden.

The *Palanpur Agency Directory* published in 1919 aptly describes the backwardness of the region in the following terms:

“Another main cause of the backward condition of the Agency is the absence of communications which is felt especially in the years of scarcity when it is impossible to transport fodder over the sandy roads.” This poor condition of the means of communications was thus the main cause for the backwardness of the region.

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha*, (1880), p. 299.



This situation continued more or less till Independence. On the eve of Independence the district naturally suffered from lack of communications and presented a picture of unapproachable and inaccessible terrain. The total length of the approach roads in the district was only 40 km. The dearth of asphalt or other hard surfaced roads resulted in non-establishment of large trade centres, of large towns and of various types of industries. During the First Plan period road system surveys were undertaken and during the Second Plan period construction work was taken on hand. As a result of this, the total length of roads in the district increased to 603 km., at the end of Second Plan. Thus the proportion of road kilometrage per 100 square km., of area was 5.01 km. Of 603 km. of total roads, 353 km. had asphalt surface, 155 km., had W.B.M. and 155 km., with the murrum and other lower type of surface. Despite this progress the district lagged far behind the target set for it in the Nagpur Plan which envisaged a total length of 2308 km. in 1961. There was thus a big shortfall (73 per cent). Though there was no significant rise in the length of the roads during the Third Plan, there was considerable improvement in the surface of the roads in the district. The road length rose from 603 km., in 1961 to 668 in 1966, asphalt road surface rose from 353 km. to 486 km., during the period. During the Annual Plans that followed, large amount was spent on road construction. As a result length of roads increased from 668 km., in 1965-66 to 2101 km., in 1969-70. Asphalt surface also increased *pari passu* from 486 km. to 631 km., during this period. In 1970-71, only 17.19 per cent of the villages had *pucca* road facility.

To remove the deficiency and shortfall in achieving the Nagpur Plan targets in the State, a 20-Year Road Development Plan (1961-81) was drawn up on the basis of the principles laid down in the All-India Road Development Plan (1961-81). A brief description of the plan is given below.

The objectives of the new plan are : (1) to provide 32 km., of roads per 100 sq. km, of area on an average and (2) to bring every village (a) in a developed and agricultural area, within 6 km., of a metalled road and 2 km., of any road, (b) in a semi-developed area within 12 km. of a metalled road and 4 km., of any road and (c) in an undeveloped and uncultivable area within 18 km. of a metalled road and 7.5 km. of any road.

1. Census 1971, Banaskantha District



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The total length of metalled and unmetalled roads in the district in 1974 was 2,983 km., Of these 797 km. had black topped surface, 227 km., had water bound macadam surface and remaining 1,959 km. had unmetalled earthen surface. Thus out of a total length of 2,983 km., only 1,024 km. had metalled surface.

As against this, the 20-Year Road Development Plan envisages 4,192 km., of metalled roads in the district by the end of March 1981. Thus so far as the metalled surface of the existing roads is concerned, it can be said that the district is lagging behind by the 75.3 per cent of the target set for the district in the "20-Year Road Development Plan."

The following figures show the progress made since 1961:

Year	N. less H. (Km.)	S. H. (Km.)	M. D. R. (Km.)	O.D.R. (Km.)	V. R. (Km.)	Total (Km.)
1961		266	191	35	111	603
1969-70		642	570	478	411	2101
1974	199.21	486.25	666.40	790.97	840.24	2983.07

A brief description of the different types of roads is given below:

National Highways (N. H.)—National Highways are the main highways serving predominantly national, as distinct from State purposes, and run through the length and breadth of India connecting major ports, foreign highways, capitals of States and strategic routes of importance for the defence of the country. These are maintained by the State Public Works Department from the Central Government funds. They are generally tar roads with a minimum width of 11.58 metres. Though there was a provision in the above Plan for constructing 132 km., of National Highway for the district, there was no such highway till 1972. However, a decision was taken by the Government of India thereafter to construct the Kandla-Pathankot National Highway (No. 15) which passed through this district. This highway is important for the economy of the district.



The total length of the National Highways in this district is 199.21 km. As per proposals of the '20-Year Road Development Programme, this district will have two more National Highways, viz., (1) Ahmadabad-Palanpur-Abu Road upto the border of Rajasthan State. At present this road exists as a two-lane State Highway and is proposed to be upgraded to National Highway in the '20--Year Road Development Plan' and (2) the Kandla--Sidhpur Road. Out of a total length of 86 km., of this road in the district, 68 km. are covered under Kandla--Pathankot National Highway. The portion from Radhanpur to Jetalpur up to district limit, covering a distance of about 20 km., will be constructed during the remaining period of the Plan. On completion of the above two roads, the total length of National Highways in the district will be 287 km. A brief description of the National Highway No. 15, i.e., Pathankot-Kandla is given below. :

(1) *Kandla--Pathankot (National Highway No. 15)*—This Highway enters the district near the Khoda village of the Tharad taluka, and passes through Tharad, Vav, Suigam, Bhabhar, Radhanpur, and Santalpur talukas and thereafter enters the Kachchh district and goes upto the Kandla Port where it terminates. This road has a great economic significance. It is motorable all the year round.

State Highways (S.H.)—The State Highways have been defined as all other main, trunk or arterial roads of a State connecting with National or State Highways of adjacent States, district headquarters and important cities within the State and serving as main arteries of traffic to and from district roads. These roads are maintained by the State Public Works Department. They have a tar surface and a minimum width of 9.75 metres and are completely motorable throughout the year, except at those places having causeways or submersible bridges, where traffic may be interrupted in monsoon for short periods. The State Highways are usually connected with National Highways.

The total length of State Highways in the district was 486.25 km., in 1974.

Important State Highways in the district are briefly described below :



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(1) **Ahmadabad-Mahesana-Sidhpur-Palanpur-Abu Road-Delhi-** This is one of the most important State Highways passing through the district. It starts from Ahmadabad and after leaving Mahesana district, the road enters the Banaskantha district near Tenivada village of Vadgam taluka at km., No. 118 and runs further upto Delhi. On its way it touches Chhapi, Kanodar, Palanpur and Chitrasani in this district. After leaving the district, this road enters the adjoining State of Rajasthan. At Palanpur this road also meets the Palanpur-Danta-Ambaji and Palanpur Deesa-Radhanpur State Highways.

This road thus links the district with Ahmadabad and Mahesana in the south and with Delhi through Rajasthan in the north. Balam, a natural and beautiful tourist centre in the district, is also situated on this road. Its total length in the district is 56 km., which has a black topped surface motorable all the year round. It is proposed to upgrade this road as National Highway during the period of '20—Year Road Development Plan.' Looking to its importance and also due to heavy traffic, this road has been provided with two lanes.

(2) **Palanpur-Deesa-Sihori-Radhanpur-** This is another important State Highway passing through the district. It starts from Palanpur, the district headquarters and runs in westerly direction upto Deesa and thereafter in south-west direction towards Bhuj. In its course it touches important places like Deesa, Sihori, Radhanpur, etc., in this district. Near Radhanpur it meets the Pathankot-Kandla National Highway. Besides this, it also meets the Ahmadabad-Delhi State Highway near Palanpur; the Deesa-Tharad State Highway near Deesa and the Radhanpur-Sami--Harij Mahesana State Highway near Radhanpur. Its total length in the district is 111 km., with two lanes and black topped surface, which is motorable throughout the year. This is a very important State Highway as it links the taluka headquarter places in the western part of the district with the district headquarters at Palanpur.

(3) **Palanpur-Ambaji Road-** This is also an important State Highway which links Palanpur with Ambaji, a famous centre of Shakti cult and a place of pilgrimage for Hindus. Here the temple of Ambamata is situated. Every year thousands of Hindus flock to this place and thus the road feeds the pilgrim traffic bound for this and other holy places around Ambaji. It also links Danta.



a taluka headquarter with Palanpur. The total length of this road is 58 km., with black topped surface. The road is completely negotiable in all the seasons

(4) *Deesa-Tharad Road*—This State Highway takes off from the Palanpur-Deesa-Radhanpur Road near Deesa and runs in western direction towards Tharad. It links Tharad with Deesa and through it with Palanpur. The total length of this road is 55 km., with black topped surface, negotiable in all the seasons.

(5) *Deesa-Bhatasan*—This State Highway also takes off from the Palanpur-Deesa-Radhanpur Road, near Deesa and runs towards Bhatasan in Patan taluka of the adjoining Mahesana district. The total length of the road in the district is 17 km., which has a black topped surface. The road is important for traffic between Deesa and Patan.

(6) *Ambaji-Kheroj Road*—This is a part of Himatnagar-Idar-Kheroj—Mota-Ambaji State Highway. The length of the road in the district is 24 km. It has a black topped surface, trafficable during all the seasons. The road links important places like Himatnagar, Idar and Khedbrahama in the adjoining district of Sabarkantha with Ambaji, the celebrated place of pilgrimage for the Hindus.

Besides these, a small portion of 5 km., only of Ambaji-Abu State Highway and of 8 km., of the Radhanpur-Sami State Highway are also under the charge of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Banaskantha district.

Major District Roads (M.D.R.)—The Major District Roads are roughly of the same specifications as the State Highways with this difference that their minimum width is 24 feet or 7.32 metres. They connect important marketing centres with railways, State Highways and National Highways. In this district, the total length of such roads was 666.40 km. in 1973-74.

Other District Roads (O.D.R.)—The Other District Roads are also of the same type as the Major District Roads but they are subject to frequent interruptions of traffic during the rainy season. In this district, the total length of Other District Roads was 790.97 km., in 1974.



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Village Roads (V.R.)—The Village Roads are generally unmetalled approach roads from the main roads to villages. The total length of these roads in the district was 840.24 km., at the end of 1973-74.

The following statements give details about the Major District Roads, the Other District Roads and the Village Roads in the district. They are under the charge of Banaskantha District Panchayat, Palanpur :

STATEMENT VIII 1
Major District Roads, 1972-73

Sl. No. 1	Name 2	Length metalled 3	Length unmetalled 4	Total length 5
1.	Deesa-Dhanera Road.	28.78	...	28.78
2.	Thawar-Nenwa upto district limit	...	25.20	25.20
3.	Dantiwada-Panthawada-Dhanera Road.	40.50	3.77	44.27
4.	Palanpur-Vadgam-Kodra Road.	6.44	20.93	27.37
5.	Vadgam-Chhapi Road.	...	11.23	11.23
6.	Munavas-Sisrana-Vadgam Road.	21.83	7.30	29.13
7.	Chadotar-Gadh to District limit.	21.14	...	21.14
8.	Balaram-Ambaji Road.	3.00	40.00	43.00
9.	Danta-Hadad Road.	8.00	21.50	29.50
10.	Deodar-Thara-Totana Road.	10.00	16.73	26.73
11.	Radhanpur-Morwada-Suigam Road.	24.90	13.30	38.20
12.	Surana-Sihori Road.	...	14.00	14.00
13.	Moti Pipali-Podaspura Road.	...	14.00	14.00
14.	Sindhada-Morwada Road.	...	30.59	30.59
15.	Wav-Dhima Road.	10.50	...	10.50
16.	Tharad-Dhanera Road.	12.00	31.64	43.64
17.	Tharad-Mavsari Road.	22.00	19.71	41.71
18.	Deodar-Warsada.	8.50	13.34	21.84
19.	Vav-Radosan-Korettee.	...	26.05	26.05
20.	Deodar--Jakada-Jetada Road.	6.40	13.60	20.00
21.	Jada-Kotarwada Road.	...	32.20	32.20
22.	Kapasias-Sarotra Road.	3.00	23.00	26.00
23.	Deesa-Chitrasani Road	...	30.60	30.60
24.	Others	15.07	15.65	30.72
Total		242.06	424.34	666.40

Source :

Executive Engineer, Banaskantha District Panchayat, Palanpur.

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STATEMENT VII.2
Other District Roads, 1972-73

Sl. No. 1	Name 2		Length metalled km. 3	Length unmetalled km. 4	Total length km. 5
1.	Old Deesa-Samou Bhatasan Road	..	4.60	18.40	23.00
2.	Khimat-Bapla Road	..	7.00	9.50	16.50
3.	Thavar-Dharnodhar Road	..	..	12.00	12.00
4.	Jamda-Daip Road	..	..	33.34	33.34
5.	Bhabhar-Morwada Road	..	..	16.80	16.80
6.	Bhabhar-Thara Road	..	..	26.34	26.34
7.	Gramadi-Jakhotra Road	..	11.50	2.66	14.16
8.	Varahi-Lodra Road	..	20.00	1.39	21.39
9.	Bandhwad-Dharwadi Road	..	16.25	..	16.25
10.	Vav-Bhabhar Road	..	..	34.00	34.00
11.	Thavar-Chhota Road	..	11.00	10.27	21.27
12.	Piluda-Naroli Road	..	..	16.10	16.10
13.	Palanpur-Hathidra Road	..	2.00	22.15	24.15
14.	Palanpur-Bhutedi Road	..	3.00	12.00	15.00
15.	Kanodar-Meta Road	..	..	11.00	11.00
16.	Sanali-Makadi Road	..	..	11.05	11.05
17.	Rangpur-Makadi Road	..	2.60	10.45	13.05
18.	Kansari-Khimat Road	..	..	20.52	20.52
19.	Kansari-Dantiwada Road	..	..	18.50	18.50
20.	Sera-Sia-Alwada Road	..	..	26.56	26.56
21.	Jeada-Zerda Road	..	..	37.03	37.03
22.	Kherola-Bural Road	..	..	19.32	19.32
23.	Agthala-Dhanera Road	..	..	28.98	28.98
24.	Jakhotra-Dudosan Road	..	..	27.37	27.37
25.	Zazam-Soneth Road	..	..	12.88	12.88
26.	Dudhava-Ranesari Road	..	..	25.70	25.70
27.	Vav-Mavsari Road	..	..	32.20	32.20
28.	Benap-Madka Road	..	..	22.54	22.54
29.	Tharad-Bhorol Road	..	..	16.10	16.10



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STATEMENT VII.2—concl'd.

Sl. No.	Name	Length metalled km.	Length unmetalled km.	Total length km.
1	2	3	4	5
30.	Eta-Luvana Road	..	28.98	28.98
31.	Teqwada-Warsada Road	..	10.98	10.98
32.	Thara-Bhadravadi-Un-Road	..	15.66	15.66
33.	Varahi-Abiyana Road	..	11.05	11.05
34.	Varahi-Antarness Road	..	16.10	16.10
35.	Bhilot-Koliwada Road	..	13.00	13.00
36.	Beda-Gorad Road	5.00	5.00	10.00
37.	Others	..	72.10	72.10
Total		82.95	708.02	790.97

Source : Executive Engineer, Banaskantha District Panchayat, Palanpur.

STATEMENT VII.3

Village Roads, 1972-73

Sl. No.	Name	Length metalled km.	Length unmetalled km.	Total length km.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Radhanpur-Jetalpur Road	..	17.84	17.84
2.	Dhanera-Duva Road	..	12.88	12.88
3.	Mangrol-Bhordu Road	..	10.46	10.46
4.	Mavsari-Daip Road	..	12.88	12.88
5.	Sinad-Kamalpur Road	..	11.00	11.00
6.	Bala-Ganjisar Road	..	13.07	13.07
7.	Others (below 10 km.)	74.32	687.79	762.11
Total		74.32	765.92	840.24

Source : Executive Engineer, Banaskantha District Panchayat, Palanpur.

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Municipal Roads

There is only one municipal town in the district, *i. e.*, Palanpur. The total length of the municipal roads was 45.80 km. in 1971-72. Of these 15.26 km., were metalled, 2.91 km., W.B.M. surface and remaining 27.63 km., unmetalled.

VEHICLES AND CONVEYANCES

Beasts of Burden—There are certain beasts which are used for carrying goods and passengers from one place to another. Their number according to the Livestock Census, 1972 was as follows : bullocks 2,01,263, camels 19,604, donkeys 10,749, horses and ponies 2,424 and mules 37. The district has the largest number of camels in the entire State. This is due to semi-arid region of this district and the adjoining district of Kachchh. The largest number of bullocks speaks for the dependence of the district on agriculture and other allied activities.

Bullock Carts—These vehicles are still the usual mode of transport especially in the rural areas. These are largely used for transportation of goods from villages to nearby markets. In view of the fact that a large number of villages in this district are still without any approach road, the carts occupy an important place in the rural economy. However, their importance has greatly diminished for long distance travels as there is considerable development of rail and road transport. According to Live stock Census, 1972 there were 34,330 bullock carts in the various parts of the district. The highest number of bullock carts was in the Vav taluka 6,306, followed by the Tharad taluka (5,468). and the Deesa taluka (5,418).

OTHER VEHICLES

The total number of automobile vehicles registered in the district was 1,729 in March 1974. These were tractors (438), jeeps (388), trailers (284), trucks (191), motor cycles (153), cars (93), taxis (90) and others including police vans, tankers, tempoes, ambulance, etc. (92). Compared to other vehicles the number of tractors is very large. This shows that the farmers in the district have adopted mechanised appliances for cultivation.



ROAD TRANSPORT

The foregoing pages have shown that roads were practically non-existent in the Banaskantha district in pre-Independence days. It is, therefore, only natural that road transport could not develop in the district in those days. However, after the First World War, in 1927, a private contractor M/s. Vanmalidas Manekchand started a bus service between Radhanpur and Harij. Later on Radhanpur was also linked with Viramgam in 1929 and thereafter with Varahi. Similarly Deesa was also connected by bus to a number of other places in the district, such as Palanpur, Vagdod, Patan, Dhanera, Panthavada *via* Khimat, Gundari, Lakhani, Vav *via* Tharad, Radhanpur *via* Deodar and Bhabhar, Suigam, Deesa Railway station and Juna Deesa. Buses also plied between Bhorol--Bhabhar, Tharad-Deodar, Patan--Sihori, Palanpur--Panchada, Palanpur--Meta, etc. These services were operated by the private contractors and companies, who got the monopoly for the same from the rulers of the former States on payment of a stipulated amount. Some of the prominent operators in the district were M/s., Saralal Mehta, Shantilal Dharamchand Kothari, Mafatlal Ugamchand Kansara, Hirabhai Mohanlal Parikh, and Faramroz Contractor. Buses between Palanpur--Ambaji and Danta were operated first by M/s., Apte Transport Company and subsequently by M/s., Shivashankar and Company. M/s., Erachvala Sheth and Co., operated buses between Ambaji and Abu. Thus it can be seen that even prior to Independence, some of the important centres in the district such as Palanpur, Deesa, Tharad, Radhanpur, Ambaji, Danta, etc., were connected by the bus services operated by these contractors.

The rulers of the former States were not at all interested in the development of the roads. They were simply interested in getting the lump sum amount from the private contractors and companies, whom they granted the monopoly rights for operation of the bus services. Such contractors were made responsible for the repairs of the roads. But interested as they were in making the maximum profits from their transactions, they paid very little attention either for the amenities of the passengers or for the repairs of the roads. Moreover overcrowding and congestion in buses were the order of the day. Maintenance of buses for the safety of travellers was also neglected. Bus services in those days plied on sandy and earthen roads and were mostly confined to few important centres like Deesa, Tharad, Palanpur, Ambaji, etc. Rural areas remained



more or less completely isolated.

After Independence it was realised that for sound economic, social and cultural development of the district expansion of the road transport facilities should be assigned a very high priority.

The Government adopted two chief measures for development of the road transport, *i.e.*,

- (1) Construction of a large number of new roads connecting places which remained separated, and
- (2) Nationalisation of passenger services.

In the Banaskantha area, the process of nationalisation of passenger services was started in August, 1954 when the Bombay State Road Transport Corporation took over the operations of the Abu Road Depot, which had a fleet of six vehicles. The latter operated two scheduled trips and two routes between Abu Road and Mt. Abu and Mt. Abu and Delvada. The Divisional office and workshop were opened at Palanpur in January, 1955. Depots were also started at Palanpur and Deesa during the same year. A traffic point was opened at Radhanpur to operate Radhanpur city service. In the subsequent years, bus services from the Palanpur division were extended to other areas of the Banaskantha and Mahesana districts. In January, 1957, Abu Road Depot was handed over to Rajasthan, following the Re-organisation of States in 1956. Consequently a Depot at Ambaji was also opened during the same year. The Tharad and Radhanpur Depots were started in October and November, 1957 respectively. In March 1960, the Palanpur sub-division was closed and a full fledged division was formed at Mahesana, which covered Palanpur also. On the formation of Gujarat State in May, 1960, the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation took over the operations from (1) the Bombay State Road Transport Corporation in the Gujarat region, (2) the Saurashtra State Road Transport Corporation from the Saurashtra region and (3) the Kutch State Road Transport Corporation from the Kachchh State. On the formation of Gujarat State, the last two bodies mentioned above were dissolved.



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The following figures illustrate the progress made in the field of passenger services in the Banaskantha district since 1954.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Years				
		1954	1960	1965	1970	1974
1.	No. of routes	2	79	136	193	270
2.	Route km.	33	3,738	7,235	11,640	17,956
3.	Average schedule runs	2	68	83	144	168
4.	Vehicles held	6	79	93	166	205
5.	Passengers travelled per day	326	14,008	28,900	44,302	64,309

These statistics show remarkable progress made by the State transport since nationalisation. As a result of this tremendous expansion, 63.21 per cent of villages and 82 per cent of total population of the district are directly covered by the State transport. For 22 per cent of villages, the bus stop is located at a distance of 3 km., whereas the inhabitants of only 4.27 per cent of villages have to travel a distance of more than 5 km., to reach the nearest bus stop.

The Banaskantha district is at present connected with the following district headquarters in the State : (1) Mahesana, (2) Sabarkantha, (3) Gandhinagar, (4) Ahmadabad, (5) Kheda, (6) Vadodara, (7) Bharuch, (8) Surat, (9) Himatnagar, (10) Rajkot and (11) Bhavanagar. The buses facilitate the tourist-cum-pilgrim traffic bound for Ambaji, Balaram, Sidhpur, Patan, Sankheshwar, Dakor, Unjha, Pavagadh, Dumas, Shamlaji, etc.

Railways

The district is at present served by the following railway lines :

1. Ahmadabad--Ajmer-Bandikui-Delhi (Metre gauge)
2. Palanpur-Bhildi-Gandhidham (Metre gauge)
3. Bhildi--Ranivara (Metre gauge)



The railway construction was started in the district in the late seventies of the 19th century. The first railway line, *i. e.*, the portion of Rajputana-Malwa Railway was opened in the district in 1879. In 1893, another line *viz.*, Palanpur-Deesa was opened. Thereafter no new railway line, was constructed in the district till 1952 when Deesa-Kandla metre gauge line was constructed. However, it will be interesting here to know several schemes of the railway construction in the district, which, for one reason or another, could not take shape.

It was proposed to construct railways in the former Radhanpur State as part of the relief works during the great famine of 1899. Two earth works were undertaken for the purpose of construction of rail route. Instead these works happily laid foundation of roads from Radhanpur to Sami, Radhanpur to Deodar and Radhanpur to Dhadhana.

In December 1911, it was decided to commence the earth work of the First Section of Bombay-Sindh Railway connection from Viramgam to Sami *via* Dasada. The Railway Board had decided to go ahead with the construction of the section irrespective of whether, it formed part of proposed Bombay-Sind broad gauge line. However, the scheme was not implemented due to financial stringency. Similarly Danta State had also proposed to construct Bhavani Danta State Railway. The following extract from the *Annual Administration Report of the Danta State* throws light on the same.

“On 17th, May 1928, the detailed project of Bhawani Danta State Railway with the results of investigation of the Traffic were sent to the Political Department with a view to have the sanction for construction of the Railway. This project had details of the first section of 22-63 miles.

Later on, the result of reconnoitring survey of the last hilly section of 13 Miles was submitted in which great success has been achieved by the Railway Department in finding two alternative routes, with gradients of 1 in 66 and 1 in 80 in place of former one of 1 in 40 of the *Ambaji Taranga* Railway. There yet seems to be the possibility of having these grades easier and to find selection

1. *Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. I, (1908), p. 73.



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of the route in the hilly section will be made after more trials when the preliminaries of construction of first section are taken in hand.

The Railway Board is satisfied that the estimate makes sufficient provision for the construction of the line to an adequate standard, so that the safety of the public shall not be endangered."¹

Similarly in a conference of the Post War Railway Reconstruction held at Mt. Abu in October 1945, the following Railway projects were suggested on behalf of the Palanpur State.²

- (1) Deesa to Ranivara
- (2) Chhapi to Danta and
- (3) Deesa to Badin via Tharad

On account of the partition of the country in 1947, the lines from Chhapi to Danta and Deesa--Badin could not be implemented, and instead of proposed Deesa--Ranivara line, Bhildi-Ranivara line was constructed in 1957. A brief description of the existing railway lines in the district is given below.

(1) *Ahmadabad—Ajmer—Bandikui—Delhi Line (M.G.)*

In 1877, the Government of India decided to extend the Bombay-Baroda and Central India Railway from Ahmadabad to Rajputana. The era of the railway construction commenced in the Banaskantha region with the laying down of the Rajputana-Malwa Railway, which was then known as the Western Rajputana State Railway, opened for traffic on 15th November, 1879. Incidentally this was the first railway line constructed as early as 1879. The total length of this line in this district is 59 km.³ It commences from Dharewada station at km. 109 and terminates at Amirgadh station at km. 169 in this district. The line has a great economic significance as it links the district in the south with Ahmadabad and through it with other important places in the State and in the north with Delhi

1. *Annual Administration Report of the Danta State*, 1929, p.11

2. *Summary Report of the Administration of the Palanpur State, 1944-45*, p. 5.

3. Calculated from the *Western Railway Time Table*.



the capital of India. The line passes through the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, etc. In this district, the line passes through Palanpur and Vadgam talukas.

(2) *Palanpur--Deesa--Kandla (M.G.)*

The section between Palanpur and Deesa, length of 28 km. was opened for traffic on 18th November, 1893. The section between Deesa and Kandla was constructed in 1952 by the Ministry of Railway, Government of India and was declared open by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the then President of India. This line for the first time brought Kachchh into contact with the mainland of Gujarat through land route. This line was a sequel to the recommendations of the West Coast Major Port Development Committee, which was appointed by the Government of India in 1948 under the chairmanship of Shri Kasturbhai Lalbhai, an Ahmadabad industrialist to consider location of a major port on the west coast, consequent on the loss of Karachi due to partition. Kandla, the proposed new major port, was to be linked with the rest of India by metre and broad gauge railway lines from Jhund to Kandla (broad gauge) with a bridge over little Rann of Kachchh and from Deesa to Kandla metre gauge. The economic significance of the line lies in the fact that it links the Banaskantha district with Kandla, the only major port in Gujarat State. In this district, the line passes through Palanpur, Deesa, Deodar, Radhanpur and Santalpur talukas. Its length in this district is 173 km.

(3) *Bhildi--Ranivara Line*

This is another important metre gauge line passing through the district.

It is interesting to learn that a scheme for connecting Ranivara with Kandla was proposed by the former Jodhpur State as far back as 1930. The proposed line, 213 miles in length, was to be constructed partly by the Jodhpur State and partly by the Kachchh State. The engineering survey was carried out in 1931. However, owing to several reasons such as the refusal of the Kachchh State to join the Indian Customs Union and the reluctance of Jodhpur State to incur heavy capital expenditure without assurance of an adequate return, the scheme had to be deferred. Subsequent efforts to revive the scheme also proved futile. In 1947 the interest



was again revived by the Jodhpur State, which also got the support of Government of India. The Jodhpur railway ordered a traffic survey of the proposed line from Ranivara to Piparala, 122 miles away towards Kandla. What they had in mind was that Kandla Port should be connected only with Ranivara through Piparala and not with Ahmadabad-Marwar metre gauge line. The Railway Board, however, favoured metre gauge connections between Kandla and Deesa and Deesa and Ranivara and instructed the B. B. & C. I. Railway in October 1948 to undertake what was known as the Kandla-Deesa-Ranivara-Survey. Meanwhile a decision was also taken to develop Kandla as a major port on the west coast between Karachi and Bombay. Soon after the commencement of the survey, it was decided by the B. B. & C. I. Railway to connect the Ranivara line with the Kandla--Palanpur line at Bhildi, instead of at Deesa, so as to avoid construction of a second bridge across the Banas river, and the reversing of trains at Deesa. Accordingly the construction of the final part of the Bhildi-Ranivara project was completed by the Western Railway in 1957 at an estimated cost of Rs 1.20 crores. The section was handed over to the Northern Railway for the operation of goods traffic from 11th November, 1957. Passenger traffic commenced a little later (from 11th May, 1958). For all traffic from Kandla port inland to Hissar in Punjab and stations to the West of Hissar, the new route is the shortest. With the construction of this line, a much needed alternative route is created for traffic from Kandla port moving towards Punjab, Delhi and Rajasthan. Thus the line has great strategic and economic significance for the district and the northern region.

In this district, this line passes through the Deesa and Dhanera talukas and covers a distance of 55 km. After leaving Dugdol station of Dhanera taluka, the line enters the adjoining Rajasthan State and terminates at Ranivara station. Salient features of the Railway system in this district are:

(1) There are only three railway lines, all of which are in metre gauge. There is therefore no broad gauge or narrow gauge line in the district. Of the three lines, two are under the control of the Western Railway and one, viz., Bhildi-Ranivara is under the Northern Railway.

(2) The total length of the railway lines in the district is 300 km., which comes to 23.62 square km., per thousand

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square km., and 23.71 square km., per lakh of population.

(3) Out of 11 taluka-mahals, seven are served by the railways. The remaining four talukas, viz., (1) Tharad (ii) Danta (iii) Kankrej and (iv) Vav are devoid of any rail facility.

(4) Two of the three railway lines are, i. e., (i) Ahmadabad-Palanpur-Delhi and (2) Bhildi-Ranivara line are inter-state lines.

(5) The railways provide hinterland extending upto Kachchh in the west, Mahesana, Ahmadabad, etc., in the south and Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Western U. P., Kashmir and Jammu, etc., in the north.

Bridges

Bridges play an important part in the socio-economic life of a region. They render the roads useful for all the seasons and help in the movement of passengers and goods to and from one destination to another, thus increasing the social contacts among the people and larger transactions of goods in the markets. There are eleven bridges under the charge of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department and one bridge/causeway under the Banaskantha District Panchyat as detailed in the Statement VII.4 that follows :



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STATEMENT VII.4
List of Major Bridges and Causeways in Banaskantha District, 1973

Sl. No.	Bridge/Causeway	Name of the road	Category of road	River/Nalla	Length of Bridge	Cost of construction Rs.	Year of construction
1.	Banas bridge, Deesa	Palanpur-Deesa-Radhanpur Road in km. 30.	S. H.	Banas river	1771'-0"	24,08,553	1955
2.	Banas bridge, Gochnath	Radhanpur-Sami-Harij Road in km. 7 from Radhanpur.	"	"	1575'-0"	22,73,482	1965
3.	Bagdoiya bridge	Radhanpur-Sami-Harij Road in km. 8 from	"	Bagdoiya river	220'-0"	2,69,758	1961
4.	Banas bridge, Umbari	Sihori-Patan Road in km. 8 from Sihori.	M.D.R.	Banas river	1320'-0"	28,00,000	1973
5.	Umerdeshi bridge near Kanodar	Dharewada to Palanpur road in km. 130.	S. H.	Umerdeshi river	550'-0"	5,76,555	1964
6.	Uthriya bridge	Dharewada-Palanpur road in km. 123.	"	Uthriya vehla	225'-0"	3,74,075	1961
7.	Balaram bridge near Chitrasani.	Palanpur-Chitrasani-Abu road km. 158/8.	"	Balaram river	522'-0"	7,50,235	1967
8.	Suri bridge	Chitrasani-Abu road in km. 175	"	Suri river	222'-0"	2,33,901	1963
9.	Siri bridge	Kheroj-Ambamata road in km. 91	"	Siri river	240'-0"	2,33,829	1966
10.	Umerdeshi bridge near Merwada	Palanpur-Danta-Ambaji Road	"	Umerdeshi river	565'-0"	6,00,000 (Approx)	1965
11.	Arjuni bridge	Palanpur-Danta-Road	"	Arjuni river	405'-0"	4,25,000 (Approx)	1971
B-Bridges under the District Panchayat :							
1.	Causeway across Rel river	Dhanera-Nenawa Road	M. D. R.	Rel river	883'	2,39,457	1972

Source :

Executive Engineers, R. & B. Division and District Panchayat, Palanpur.

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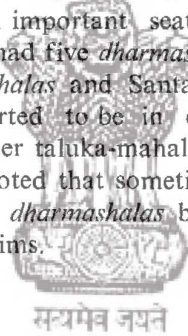
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Dharmashalas and Sarais

Dharmashalas are the oldest institutions catering to the facilities of tourists by providing lodging at practically nominal rates. These are mostly concentrated in places of pilgrimage. These are built generally by some philanthropic persons and are usually maintained by charitable trusts. A traveller has to pay little or nothing to stay in them for a short period.

There were 112 *dharmashalas* spread over all the places in the district. The largest number of *dharmashalas* was found in the Danta taluka (100) of this district. This is because of Ambaji, a religious place and an important seat of *Shakti* cult, is located in this taluka. Palanpur had five *dharmashalas*. Radhanpur and Deesa each had three *dharmashalas* and Santalpur had only one *dharmashala*. *Sarais* were reported to be in existence only in Palanpur and Deesa talukas. Other taluka-mahals have no such institution. However, it should be noted that sometimes temples and *choras* in the villages are used as *dharmashalas* by the Hindus and mosques as *sarais* by the Muslims.



Rest Houses—For providing facilities to the Government servants travelling on official business, rest-houses are provided at important places. These are of three types, viz., the *atithi grih*, which is rest-house of the first rank, the *vishram grih*, a rest-house of the second rank and the *aram grih*, a rest-house of the third rank. Some of them are also open to the public, preference being generally given to the Government servants on duty. They are also well furnished with cots, fans, chairs, tables, mattresses, crockery, etc. Besides tea and coffee, meals are also provided in the *atithi* and *vishram grihs* on payment. *Atithi* and *vishram grihs* are usually maintained by the Public Works Department of the State Government while the rest-houses are transferred to the District Panchyats after the introduction of the Panchayati Raj from April 1963. They are located at the following places in the district:

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Sl. No.	Under the Public Works Department	Sl. No.	Under the District Panchayat
1.	Circuit House, Mount Abu.	1.	<i>Pathikashram</i> , Palanpur
2.	Inspection Bungalow, Palanpur	2.	Rest House, Vadgam
3.	" " Ambaji	3.	" " Deesa
4.	" " Tharad	4.	" " Dhanera
5.	" " Radhanpur	5.	" " Sihori
6.	" " Varahi	6.	" " Deodar
7.	" " Bhabhar	7.	" " Radhanpur
8.	" " Vav	8.	" " Santalpur
9.	" " Suigam	9.	" " Gadhi
		10.	" " Sampu
		11.	" " Dantivada Colony

There were four post offices, two in the Palanpur State at Palanpur and Deesa, one at Radhanpur in the Radhanpur State, and the fourth at Suigam. These post offices were under the control of the Inspector of Post Offices; Ahmadabad division. Messengers were also employed, one at the Palanpur post office delivered letters in the surrounding villages, one at Suigam carried letters to and from Tharad through Vav, and one to and from Varahi from the post office at Radhanpur¹. In 1909 in the entire Banaskantha Agency, there were sixteen post offices. The practice of employing rural messengers was also in vogue to carry letters to and from different States².

Because of want of means of quick communications and poor condition of roads, postal facilities could not be developed in the Banaskantha areas in pre-Independence days. This will be evident from the fact that as late as in 1943-44, in the Palanpur State, there were two combined post and telgraph offices, (one in Palanpur and another in Deesa) and ten branch post offices³.

However, after Independence, on account of the emergence of nationalised road transport system, postal facilities were extended to remote and isolated villages. The number of post offices increased from 39 in 1951 to 120 in 1960-61. Of these 17 were sub-post offices and 103 branch offices. All the sub-post offices were pro-

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha*, (1880), p. 299.
2. *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Vol. II, (1909), p. 422.
3. *Palanpur State Annual Administration Report* for the year 1943-44, p. 54.



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vided with telegraph services. This expansion in postal services was possible because during the Five Year Plans, road construction was assigned a high priority among the development schemes.

The cumulative effect of these measures was that in the year 1973 there was one head post office at Palanpur, with 33 sub-post offices and 306 branch post offices in the district. Out of 33 sub-post offices, 23 were combined offices, equipped with telegraphic devices for the facility of the public. The following statement shows taluka wise distribution of posts and telegraphs offices, letter boxes, and the number of villages without post offices:

STATEMENT VII.5

Talukawise Distribution of Post Offices and Telegraph Offices in District for the Year 1973

(As on 31st December)

Sl. No. 1	Name of Taluka 2	No. of Post Offices 3	No. of Telegraph Offices 4	No. of letter boxes 5	No. of Villages without Post Offices 6
1.	Palanpur ..	56	4	64	124
2.	Radhanpur ..	15	1	25	39
3.	Santalpur ..	19	2	25	55
4.	Dcesa ..	34	2	43	111
5.	Tharad ..	22	1	30	112
6.	Kankrej ..	31	2	36	74
7.	Deodar ..	21	2	41	102
8.	Danta-Bhavangadh ..	18	2	26	168
9.	Dhanera ..	28	2	46	103
10.	Vadgam ..	33	3	39	77
11.	Vav ..	29	2	43	92
	Total ..	306	23	418	1,057

Source :

Superintendent of Post Offices, Banaskantha Division, Palanpur.

There are eight towns and 1,359 villages in the district. All the towns are served by postal facilities whereas such facilities were available to 23 per cent of villages and 77 per cent of villages are still without the modicum of a local post office. At the end of 1973,

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there were 24.18 post offices per lakh of population. The above statement shows that the highest number of post offices were situated in the Palanpur taluka and the lowest in the Radhanpur taluka.

TELEPHONE FACILITIES IN THE PRE-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD

Trunk telephone facilities were available at Palanpur. A call office was opened at Palanpur post office. The State Telephone Service at Radhanpur provided a useful net-work of connections at the State capital among several departments and offices and ensured prompt issue of instructions and their speedy execution. A telephone line was provided between Radhanpur and Sami for safety measures in times of floods in monsoon. Extension of telephone line from Kamalpur to Dadar could not be made due to war.¹

Present Position

The statement that follows shows position of the telephone facilities available in the Banaskantha district. Besides the town areas of Palanpur, Radhanpur, Kanodar, Deesa Bhabhar, Tharad and Varahi, rural centres like Ambaji, Chhapi, Deodar, Dhanera, Iqbalgadh, Meta, Thara and Vadgam are covered by the telephone exchanges. The first exchange was established at Palanpur in the year 1952 and the last at Vadgam in 1974. Highest number of lines and connections are available at Palanpur and the lowest at Vadgam. The district enjoys trunk line alignments with Abu Road, Ahmadabad, Sidhpur and Unjha outside the district. The exchange at Palanpur was opened with 300 lines in 1952 and its capacity was increased to 600 lines multi-automatic exchange in May, 1974. Similarly, the capacity of Bhabhar, Deesa, Dhanera and Radhanpur exchanges were increased to 200 lines, 300 lines, 100 lines and 200 lines respectively in the year 1974.

Rural Broadcasting

The scheme of rural broadcasting, which was started as early as 1944, envisages installation and maintenance of community radio

1. *Annual Administration Report, Palanpur State, 1945-46*, p. 606, and *Annual Administration Report, Radhanpur State, 1944-45*, p. 16.



sets in the villages for the benefit of rural population. The Government provides subsidy for installation of radio at the rate of 33 per cent or Rs. 150 whichever is less to the villages situated in 56 notified economically backward talukas of the State. These include, *interalia* Kankrej, Tharad, Danta, Deodar, Dhanera, Vav and Santalpur talukas of the Banaskantha district. The subsidy for maintenance of radio set is given in backward as well as in developed areas, at the rate of Rs. 75 for a transistorised radio set, Rs. 150 for a valve type battery operated set and Rs. 60 for an electrically operated set. The remaining expenditure is borne by the participating villages. The State Directorate of Information, which operates this scheme, has installed 578 radio sets in the villages of this district till March, 1974.

Radio has proved to be a very powerful medium of mass communication and this scheme has helped dissemination of valuable knowledge among the village folk about the latest developments in agriculture and has also made people politically conscious. It has also rendered useful service during the time of natural calamities like floods, by alerting the people in time to shift to safer places. It provides entertainment by way of drama, music, *bhajans*, songs, etc.

Radio Wireless

There is no broadcasting station in the district. The radio sets which began to be used in the early thirties of this century are getting popular day by day. As a result, the number of new radio licences issued in the district upto 31st December, 1973 was 4,589 and those renewed upto January, 1974 were 30,016.



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STATEMENT VII.6
Telephone Facilities in Banaskantha District, 1974

Sl. No.	Name of place	Type of Exchange its capacity	Year of Establishment	No. of Connections	No. of Extensions	Trunk line Alignment
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Ambaji	50 lines S A X	1968	41	..	One trunk line to Abu Road.
2.	Bhabhar	200 lines CBNM	1964	138	3	Trunk line to Radhanpur, Deesa, Ahmadabad, Deodar, Suigam
3.	Chhapi	100 lines S A X	1966	82	..	Two lines Sidhpur,
4.	Deesa	300 lines CBNM	1955	286	56	Palanpur, Unjha, Ahmadabad, Bhabhar, Tharad, Thara, Dhanera and Bhildi.
5.	Deodar	25 lines S A X	1970	24	..	Bhabhar trunk line
6.	Dhanera	100 lines S A X	1970	83	..	Deesa trunk line
7.	Iqbalgadh	50 lines S A X	1974	34	..	Palanpur trunk line
8.	Kanodar	35 lines S A X	1973	30	..	Palanpur trunk line
9.	Meta	35 lines S A X	1972	31	..	Palanpur trunk line
10.	Palanpur	600 lines M A X II	1952	550	110	Ahmadabad, Abu road, Sidhpur, Unjha, Deesa, Kanodar, Iqbalgadh, Vadgam, Meta
11.	Radhanpur	200 lines CBNM	1962	115	7	Varahi, Un, Bhabhar, Santapur
12.	Sihori	50 lines S A X	1974	37	..	Thara trunk line
13.	Thara	100 lines CBNM	1973	92	1	Deesa trunk line
14.	Tharad	120 lines CBNM	1970	105	1	Deesa, Vav.
15.	Vadgam	25 lines S A X	1974	21	..	Palanpur trunk line
16.	Varahi	50 lines S A X	1973	35	..	Radhanpur trunk line

SAX=Small Automatic Exchange, CBNM=Central Battery non-multiple.

MAX=Multiple Automatic Exchange.

Source:

Sub-Divisional Officer, Telephones, Palanpur.

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CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

DISTRIBUTION OF WORKERS ACCORDING TO OCCUPATIONAL DIVISIONS

Before the occupational divisions are discussed, it is necessary to know the connotation of the word 'occupation'. The occupation connotes the exact function of a person such a carpenter, a fitter, a mechanic, etc. The distribution of workers according to occupational divisions as returned at the Censuses of 1961 and 1971 is shown in the following statement:

STATEMENT VIII.1

Number of Persons engaged in Selected Occupations (Urban areas only, 1961 and 1971)

Sl. No.	Occupations	1961	1971
1.	Physicians, Surgeons, Dentists, (including Veterinary Surgeons), Medical and Technical Persons.	60	165
2.	Nursing and other Medical and Health Technicians ..	105	195
3.	Teachers	606	906
4.	Jurists	76	90
5.	Arts, Letters and Science and Related Workers (including life Scientists and Social Scientists and Professional Workers in ordained and non-ordained).	426	555
6.	Salesmen, Shop Assistants, Hawkers and Related Workers	3,795	5,617
7.	Tailors, Dress-makers Sewers and Related Workers ..	506	531
8.	Jewellery and Precious Metal Workers ..	244	1,143
9.	Food and Beverages Processors, Millers and Related Workers.	290	421
10.	House-keepers Cooks, Waiters and Related Workers ..	363	1,011
11.	Hair-dressers, Barbers and Beauticians ..	150	220
12.	Launders, Dry-cleaners and Pressers, n. e. c. ..	85	135
13.	Administrative, Executive and Managerial Workers (including Executive Officials of Government).	176	60
14.	Clerical and Related Workers ..	2,091	2,674
15.	Farmers, Fishermen, Hunters, Loggers and Related Workers	547	626
16.	Miners, Quarrymen and Related Workers ..	5	20
17.	Workers in Transport and Communications ..	855	355
18.	Craftsmen, Production Process Workers and Labourers, n. e. c.	6,585	9,311
19.	Service, Sports and Recreation Workers ..	2,239	2,448
20.	Workers not classified by occupations ..	1	35
	Total	19,205	26,518

Source :

- (1) *District Census Handbook 1961, Banaskantha District, (1964), pp. 43-55.*
- (2) *Census 1971, B-V, Part-A (Urban), Banaskantha District, (Provisional figures).*

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The occupational distribution of workers as regards the 1971 Census is available for the urban areas only, as such a comparison about the total strength of workers, in occupations for the district as a whole is not available. Thus the figures for the urban areas provided by the last two Censuses, are compared below.

The total number of workers engaged in selected occupations in the urban areas of the district increased from 19,205 in 1961 to 26,518 in 1971.

The largest number of workers was found in the group of occupations styled the craftsmen, production process workers and labourers not classified elsewhere, who increased from 6,585 in 1961 to 9,311 in 1971. They were followed by salesmen, shop assistants, etc., whose number went up for 3,795 to 5,617 clerical and related workers 2,091 to 2,674 and service, sports and recreation workers increased from 2,239 to 2,448 during the same period.¹

LEARNED PROFESSIONS

Teachers—As a result of expansion of educational facilities since Independence, the number of teachers in the primary, secondary and higher levels has increased considerably. The number of teachers increased from 2,511 to 3,360 between 1961 and 1971. Among these, the number of women teachers increased from 224 to 387. The number of primary teachers of 1969-70 was 2,744, while that of secondary teachers 458 and that in higher education 41, whereas 117 teachers were engaged in other types of educational institutions. The number of primary teachers increased to 3,485 while that of secondary teachers to 518 and that in colleges to 56 in this district during the year 1974-75. There is one Shree Ambika Sanskrit Vidyalaya at Ambaji which is managed by the Ambaji Temple Trust. It was started in the year 1962. At present there are 30 students and three teachers in the institution.

Lawyers— There were 95 legal practitioners and advisers in the year 1973, in the district as shown below. Palanpur, being the headquarters of the district, naturally, had the largest number

¹ The figures for 1971 Census are Provisional.



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of such practitioners in the district. Only one female advocate was found practising at Palanpur in the whole district.

Lawyers

Sl. No.	Name of the town	Number
1.	Palanpur	49
2.	Deesa	16
3.	Tharad	10
4.	Radhanpur	7
5.	Sihori	5
6.	Deodar	4
7.	Vav	4
Total		95

Source : District and Sessions Court, Banaskantha District, Palanpur.

Doctors—In modern times, the medical practioners occupy a coveted position in the society. Generally the persons engaged in this profession prefer to work in urban areas where there are greater opportunities for conducting medical practice.

According to 1951 Census the number of doctors was 93 (92 males and 1 female) and 144 nurses, midwives, and compo-unders, etc.¹ In 1961 these figures rose to 129 doctors and 283 nurses, etc., in the whole district. Of these 60 physicians and surgeons and 105 nurses and other health personnel were found in the urban areas of the district.

The figures for the 1971 Census are available for the urban areas only. Compared to the above figures there were 165 physicians and surgeons including two women and 195 nurses, pharmacists and other medical and health personnel in the urban areas of the district according to the 1971 Census. The total strength of the persons in the medical profession in the urban areas of the district rose from 165 in 1961 to 360 in 1971. The following table compares the number of medical personnel in the urban areas in 1961 with those in the 1971 Census.

1. *District Census Handbook 1951, Banaskantha District*, (1952), pp. 63-64.



Persons engaged in Medical Professions
(Urban areas only)

Sl. No.	Group	1961			1971		
		Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1.	Physicians, Surgeons, Dentists (including veterinary surgeons), Medical and Technical persons. ..	58	2	60	155	10	165
2.	Nursing and other Medical and Health Technicians. ..	77	28	105	125	70	195
	Total ..	135	30	165	280	80	360

Source :

- (1) *District Census Handbook 1961, Banaskantha District*, (1964), p. 43.
(2) Census 1971, B-V, Part-A, (Urban), *Banaskantha District*, (Provisional figures).

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Public administration jobs specially in the Government departments are highly favoured by the educated elite, because they are secured jobs. The 1961 Census has returned 26,062 (males 20,179 and females 5,883) persons engaged in different types of services. Of these, there were 10,959 persons returned under public service by the 1961 Census, as tabulated below- (such figures for the 1971 Census are not available).

Number of Persons engaged in Administrative Services, 1961

Sl. No.	Occupations	Males	Females	Total
A—OFFICIAL				
1.	Administrators and Executive Officials-Central Government.	..	..	..
2.	Administrators and Executive Officials-State Government.	128	8	136
3.	Administrators and Executive Officials-Local Bodies.	31	2	33
4.	Administrators and Executive Officials-Quasi Government.	4	..	4
5.	Village Officials	..	9	446
	Total ..	600	19	619
B—STAFF				
1.	Public services (excluding Government, Quasi-Government or local board, etc.)	5,365	211	5,576
2.	Public service in police	1,204	3	1,207
3.	Public service in administrative departments and offices of Quasi-Government Organisation, municipalities, local boards, etc.	1,067	187	1,254
4.	Public services in administrative department and offices of State Government.	2,901	21	2,922
	Total ..	10,537	422	10,959

Source :

District Census Handbook 1961, Banaskantha District, (1964), pp. 38 and 45.



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AMENITIES TO PUBLIC SERVANTS

Besides providing such allowances as dearness, house rent, the State Government has also made provision for granting loans to its servants for constructing residential buildings, purchase of vehicles, purchase of foodgrains, electric fan, etc. Government servants are provided residential accommodation wherever possible. Moreover, the Government servants are allowed free medical treatment at Government hospitals and dispensaries. They are allowed to reimburse expenses incurred by them for medical treatment of themselves and their family members at the institutions authorised by the Government. In addition to these concessions of leave on average pay for a period of one year and extraordinary leave for another year are also available to the Government servants suffering from T. B. Government also pays certain charges like the sanatorium and in serious cases, a fixed amount is paid for specialised diet, medicines and injections prescribed for the recovery of the T. B. patients during the period of convalescence.

In addition to the above benefits, Government servants are granted travel concessions for visit to their home town once in every two years. They are also allowed to encash the whole or part of the earned leave surrendered for a maximum of 30 days, once in every two years. This scheme into force from January, 1971. The leave travel concession rules have been further liberalised underwith a Government servant and family can travel at a declared destination by the shortest route in the state and reimburse the travel expenses once in two years. The scheme come in to force from the block for year 1978-79.

The Central Government and the statutory bodies, like the Life Insurance Corporation, have similar schemes to provide relief to their employees.

OCCUPATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE

There are certain occupations which are strictly hereditary and the winds of change do not seem to have any perceptible influence. Literally speaking such occupations are confined to blacksmithy, pottery, tailoring carpentry and to a some extent hair-cutting but on account of changes in the pattern of living due to a multiplicity of factors in the occupational structure



persons from other castes also take up tailoring as a means of livelihood. In the same way, the sons of blacksmiths, barbers, etc., do not necessarily follow the profession of their forefathers.

However, there are certain occupations which have changed considerably, on account of influence of social reformers including Mahatma Gandhiji. This has led to spread of education among women, who have become very much sensitive and conscious of their rights and privileges. The social taboos attached to female education in the past have partially disappeared except among the backward classes, Muslims and the nomadic tribes. Women are now found in almost all the professions as Government servants, as medical practitioners, nurses, teachers, etc.

SELECTED MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

The information furnished by the Palanpur Municipality is embodied in the following statement:

STATEMENT VIII.2

Persons engaged in Certain Occupations in Palanpur City, 1974

Sl. No.	Occupations	Number of establishments	Percentage to Total No. of establishments	Persons employed inclusive of employers			Percentage to total No. of persons employed
				Males	Females	Children	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Bakeries ..	5	0.87	5	..	..	5 0.59
2.	(a) Hotels. (b) lodging and boarding houses. (c) restaurants. (d) aerated waters ..	105	18.36	299	..	..	299 35.30
3.	Sweets and <i>farsans</i> ..	39	6.82	59	..	..	59 6.97
4.	<i>Pan-bidi</i> ..	88	15.39	108	..	..	108 12.74
5.	Hair-cutting saloons ..	70	12.24	76	..	..	76 8.97
6.	Flour-mills ..	23	4.02	41	..	..	41 4.84
7.	Goldsmiths ..	56	9.79	56	..	..	56 6.61
8.	Laundries ..	30	5.25	30	..	..	30 3.54
9.	Cycle-repairing ..	28	4.89	33	..	..	33 3.90
10.	Tailoring ..	114	19.93	126	..	..	126 14.89
11.	Mattresses and pillow markers	5	0.87	5	..	..	5 0.59
12.	Dyeing and printing	9	1.57	9	..	..	9 1.06
	Total ..	572	100.00	847	..	..	847 100.00

Source : Chief Officer, Palanpur Municipality, Palanpur.



It reveals that among the total number of occupations hotels, lodging and boarding houses, restaurants and aerated water establishments accounted for 18.36 per cent, tailoring 19.93 per cent, *pan-bidi* 15.39 per cent and hair-cutting saloons 12.2 per cent. These could be ranked among the popular establishments, which jointly accounted for 65.92 per cent in March, 1974 and engaged a total of 71.90 per cent of workers.

Considering the prominent urban characteristics, Palanpur town was selected for assessing the working of certain selected occupations.

A sample survey of these occupations, one each in large, medium and small categories was undertaken in the month of January, 1975. The selection of occupations was made on the basis of income derived by each of the establishments. The result of the survey is generalised below.

1. Hotels, Lodging and Boarding Houses, Restaurants and Aerated Waters—There were 105 establishments in this group, which employed 299 persons. Of these, hotels and restaurants, and those manufacturing aerated waters like soda, lemon, etc., were more in numbers and were mostly managed by the owners themselves. It was also found that most of them were housed in rented premises. The Palanpur town being the main centre of the Banaskantha district, the business made by hotels and restaurants is more or less lucrative compared to other places in the district. The average investment in hotels and restaurants ranged between Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 15,000, that in the lodging and boarding houses between Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 50,000 and that for aerated waters establishments between Rs. Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000. The average monthly gross income of an individual hotel and restaurant ranged between Rs. 2,400 to Rs. 6,000 depending upon its size, location and popularity, that of a lodging and boarding houses from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 5,000 while in the case of aerated waters, it ranged between Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,200. It was found that consumption of aerated waters was substantial in Palanpur town in hot season and in the marriage season; but the owners of lodging and boarding houses complained about their dwindling business on account of high cost and development of road transport facilities which led to the decline in their usual customers. There was no association

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of these occupations. Palanpur being a sugar-cane growing area, a number of vendors sell sugar-cane juice in hot season.

2. *Bakeries*—There were 5 bakeries in Palanpur town. The survey disclosed that they were proprietary concerns and inherited the business from their parents. The monthly gross income of an individual shop varied from Rs. 2,400 to Rs. 3,870 indicating increased use of bread, biscuits, etc., by the people especially after the influx of refugees particularly from Sindh. Nowadays generally well-to-do people are using bread-butter, toast, *khari* and variety of biscuits in their daily life, in their breakfast and at tea time. In two years the prices have doubled. The bakery owners complained about high prices, shortage of raw materials and increased wages of labour. They also woefully lamented about low margin in thier business. The monthly rent paid by the individual owners ranged from Rs. 9 to Rs 43. The investment made by the individual bakery owners in thier concerns ranged from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 5,000. There is no association of the bakery owners.

3. *Sweets and Farsan*—There were 39 establishments, which employed 59 persons. It was found that the business of these concerns was more or less seasonal and was reported to be brisk during the marriage seasons and festivals. The average investment in these shops ranged between Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 10,000. The gross monthly income of an individual establishment varied from Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 6,000 depending upon its size location and varieties of spiced and salty articles as well as sweet displayed and sold. The concept of window dressing seems largely to be profitable here as customers get first hand knowledge of articles. The scarcity of raw materials and higher production costs have been instrumental in affecting their business adversely. There was no association of this occupation.

4. *Pan-bidi*—The use of *pan--bidi* nowadays is becoming a habit among people, which has led to opening of such shops in multiplicity. Erection of wooden *pan-bidi* booths even on solitary roads is no uncommon sight these days. There were 88 shops in Palanpur town, which employed 108 persons. The survey revealed that the business was run largely on proprietorship basis. Most of the units kept and sold besides *pan-bidi* and tobacco,



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additional items like perfumery, soaps, match boxes, confectionery, etc. The average investment ranged between Rs. 500 to Rs. 2000. They were mostly housed in rented premises. The monthly rent paid varied from Rs. 9 to Rs. 30. The gross earnings of an individual establishment varied from Rs. 1,300 to Rs. 2,500. Raw materials were purchased mostly from local markets. It was revealed that large concerns among these shops sold betelnut and tobacco to other shops in the city. The business on the whole appeared to be lucrative. The turnover is generally quick among these shops and transactions are always in cash and very rarely on personal credit of usual customers. There was no association of *pan-bidi* shops in the town.

5. *Hair-cutting Saloons*—There were 70 hair-cutting saloons in Palanpur town. These establishments are scattered in different localities. The average investment ranged between Rs. 500 to Rs. 5,000. Though initial cost on fixed items like chairs, tables, mirrors and other fixtures may be large, there is not much of recurring expenditure on furniture, etc. During the survey it was found that a majority of them was housed in rented premises paying rent ranging from Rs. 9 to Rs. 15 per month individually. The gross income of an individual establishment was reported to vary from Rs. 150 to Rs. 395 per month depending upon the location and popularity. It was reported by the owners that on account of recent trend in hair style of keeping long hair by men, their business had been adversely affected. There was no association of the owners of hair-cutting saloons in the town.

6. *Flour-mills*—There were 23 flour mills, which employed 41 persons. Most of them were sole proprietary concerns, but the large units employed workers or relatives to meet the demand from the public on festivals and marriage season. The investment ranged between Rs. 10,000 to 25,000. The gross monthly income of an individual flour-mill varied from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,200. The flour-mills lie scattered in different localities in the Palanpur town. The rent paid by the flour-mills varied from Rs. 10 to Rs. 35. There was no association of flour-mill owners in Palanpur town.

7. *Goldsmiths*—There were 56 establishments of the goldsmiths, a majority of whom employed family members. The investment ranged between Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1,00,000. These shops were housed in rented premises on a monthly rent varying from Rs. 8 to Rs. 50. The gross monthly income of an individual goldsmith varied



from Rs. 5,700 to Rs. 30,000. The shops generally sell ready-made ornaments brought from centres like Ahmadabad. The goldsmiths' business has been reported to be adversely affected on account of promulgation of the Gold Control Order 1963, and dealers have started selling ornaments made of silver. Further price of gold has been so high at present that middle class women generally prefer, silver ornaments. There is no association of the goldsmiths in the Palanpur town.

8. *Laundries*—There were 30 laundries in different areas of the town. They were mostly proprietary concerns and were housed in rented premises, for which rent paid by them varied from Rs. 11 to Rs. 35 individually depending upon the size, location, etc. The investment ranged between Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000. The gross monthly income of an individual establishment varied from Rs. 200 to Rs. 450. They have reported that thier business has been adversely affected on account of use by people of dresses made from polyester fibers with the result that washing and ironning are generally done at home. There is no association of the laundry owners in the Palanpur town.

9. *Cycle-repairing*—There were 28 cycle-repairing shops which employed 33 persons. A number of people use bicycles in recent times, because it is the only cheapest and the most convenient vehicle. The monthly rent paid by an individual shop varied from Rs. 15 to Rs. 30 per month. The investment made in these shops ranged from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 10,000. The gross monthly income of an individual shop varied from Rs. 500 to Rs. 6000. The concerns which sold new bicycles had even larger turnover. The recent price hike in petrol is favourable to the cycle dealers as people would now prefer the cycles in place of automobile vehicles. No association of the cycle dealers' was found in the Palanpur town.

10. *Tailoring*—The total number of tailoring units was 114 which employed 126 persons. A majority of them was found to be sole proprietary concerns. But taking minor works such as fixing of buttons, repairing of garments, etc., on daily wages or from relatives was not uncommon with larger shops especially during the brisk period such as marrige season and social occasions. There are quite a good number of modern tailoring shops in the town, which prepare garments in current style and fashion. The average investment made in these shops varied from Rs. 5,000 to



Rs. 20,000. The gross monthly income of an individual shop varied from Rs. 700 to Rs. 3,000 and the rent paid by the owners varied from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50.

There usual dress of younger generation has undergone a change on account of several factors, among which influence of films cannot be ruled out. The tailoring profession had, therefore, to adopt changing fashions in the garments stiched or made to order. Among the tailors, those engaged in preparing garments for women earned more as compared to others. No association of the tailors was found to be working in the Palanpur town.

11. Mattresses and Pillow Makers—There were 5 establishments in Palanpur town. They were organised on proprietary basis. The average investment in these shops ranged from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 5,000. The gross monthly income of an individual establishment varied from Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 3,800, and monthly rent paid by them was from Rs. 15 to 50. These shops were scattered in different localities. There was no association of the mattresses and pillow makers in Palanpur town.

12. Dyeing and Printing—There were 9 shops doing the work of dyeing, printing and embroidery in the town. The average investment ranged from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 10,000. The monthly gross income of an individual establishment varied from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 and rent paid by the owners form Rs. 20 to Rs. 50. The work of dyeing and printing is nowadays not a lucrative profession because women now, prefer to wear embroidered sarees, and silk or nylon and terene sarees on festivals and marriage occasions.

There was no association of dyeing and printing shops in the town.

EMPLOYEES' ORGANISATIONS

Since the inauguration of the planning in the country, there has been a great expansion of employment in public service at all levels including the Central Government, State Government and the local self-governing bodies like municipalities, panchayats, etc., as a large manpower was required for implementing various development schemes under the Plans. These employees have formed their respective unions for redressal of their common grievances.



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The association formed by the State Government employees is known as the “*Gujarat Rajya Karmachari Mahamandal*” and the *Class four Government Servants Mandal* with branches in the districts affiliated to the respective State level bodies Employees of the Panchayati Raj institutions have also formed similar organisations. The following unions are functioning in the Banaskantha district.

Employees Unions as on 31-3-1974

Sl. No.	Name of the Union	Date of Registration	Approximate membership upto March, 1974
1.	Banaskantha Jilla Talati-cum-Mantri Mandal	.. 21-1-69	431
2.	Banaskantha Jilla Panchayat Class III Karmachari Mandal	26-1-69	162
3.	Banaskantha Jilla Panchayat Class IV Karmachari Mandal	31-12-69	270
4.	Banaskantha Primary Teachers' Sangh	.. 15-6-70	2,538
5.	Banaskantha Jilla Panchayat Technical Karmachari Mandal	14-9-72	129
6.	Palanpur Nagarpalika Kamdar Sangh	.. 1959	268
7.	Banaskantha District Secondary Teachers' Union	.. 24-4-73	275
8.	Banaskantha District Principals' Union	.. 1958	54

Source :

- (1) District Development Officer, Banaskantha District, Palanpur.
- (2) Chief Officer, Palanpur Nagar Palika, Palanpur.
- (3) Director of Education, Banaskantha District, Palanpur.

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CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

LIVELIHOOD PATTERN

In any study of the economic growth, manpower plays a vital role. The livelihood pattern of the people of any region and the nature and variety of the occupations followed by them are influenced by the stages of economic development and the extent to which all available-latent and potential-resources are utilised for socio-economic growth of that region.

In this study the data supplied by the Census are very helpful in assessing the extent of active population engaged in some sort of economic activity aimed at earning the livelihood. In the 1951 Census the population was classified according to their livelihood pattern, sub-divided into agricultural and non-agricultural classes. The number of persons subsisting upon agriculture accounted for 71.14 per cent and those on non-agricultural sector for 28.86 per cent of the district's total population. Thus the economy of the district is mainly agricultural. Among the agricultural classes, the number of persons engaged as cultivators and their dependants accounted for 64.05 per cent, those not owning land but engaged in cultivation and their dependants accounted for 31.39 per cent, cultivating labourers and their dependants accounted for 2.52 per cent, and land owners or the *jamindars* 2.04 per cent of the total agricultural population of the district.

The number of persons depending upon non-agricultural activities accounted for 32.07 per cent, under production other than cultivation, 22.21 per cent under commerce, 5.75 per cent under transport and 39.97 per cent under other services.

The above classification was subsequently changed into workers and non-workers in the subsequent 1961 and 1971 censuses and the population has been divided into workers and non-workers. Further, the workers were divided into nine industrial categories, broadly grouped into the primary, the secondary and the tertiary sectors. Workers accounted for 31.01 per cent and 31.51 per cent of the total population respectively in 1961 and 1971 censuses. The cause for decline in the number of workers as compared to the 1951



census is that in the 1951 census, besides self-supporting persons, their non-earning and earning dependents were also included, whereas in the 1961 and 1971 censuses, persons actually doing some sort of economic activity were classified among workers and others were included in the non-workers.

Further, out of 4,50,798 and 3,91,838 workers in the district, 71.52 and 63.78 per cent respectively were cultivators and 6.22 and 16.23 per cent respectively were agricultural labourers. This 79.88 per cent and 82.27 per cent of total workers in the district were engaged in the primary sector alone against the State average of 68.09 and 65.60 per cent during 1961 and 1971 censuses. This high percentage of workers in the primary sector reveals that the economy of the district is rural oriented and is dependent largely on cultivation of land for the purpose of livelihood.

As compared to primary sector, the component of population working in the secondary and tertiary sectors is very low under both the censuses of 1961 and 1971. Only 9.47 and 5.83 per cent were engaged in household industry, manufacturing industry and construction activities, whereas 10.65 and 11.90 per cent of workers were engaged in the tertiary sector comprising trade and commerce, and other services and transport and communications.

The above data reveal that the economy of the district is agro-based. This explains for general backwardness of the district. There are no large or medium industries to which population can turn for subsistence. The mineral base is also not very sound. Limestone, bentonite, red clay, colour ochre and marble stones are found in the district. Moreover, copper and zinc deposits have been detected near Mota Ambaji in the Danta taluka. The geological survey has indicated that these deposits will help establish industries in the district.

These figures reveal that males predominate in the working population as, in the present context of society, females have to confine their activities to household duties only, more so in a backward district like Banaskantha. Moreover, 80.01 per cent of the total population was engaged in agricultural pursuits as against the State average of 68.09 and 65.60 per cent during the last two censuses. The economy of this district is thus rural oriented and agro-based. The remaining categories of workers accounted for 22.26 and 19.99



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STATEMENT IX.I
Category of Workers and their Percentage, 1961 and 1971

		Working population							
Sl. No.	Category of Workers	Males		Females		Total		Percentage to total workers	
		1961	1971	1961	1971	1961	1971	1961	1971
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	As cultivators ..	203,167	232,345	119,210	17,588	322,377	249,933	71.52	63.78
2.	As agricultural labourers	18,687	49,280	9,374	14,310	28,061	63,590	6.22	16.23
3.	In mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards and allied activities.	3,988	8,238	5,644	621	9,632	8,859	2.14	2.26
4.	At household industry..	21,068	10,861	12,478	1,542	33,546	12,403	7.44	3.17
5.	In manufacturing other than household industry.	3,274	7,033	191	316	3,465	7,349	0.77	1.87
6.	In construction ..	4,484	2,713	1,212	368	5,696	3,081	1.26	0.79
7.	In trade and commerce	14,318	19,444	1,594	748	15,912	20,192	3.53	5.15
8.	In transport, storage and communications.	3,505	5,798	69	105	3,574	5,903	0.79	1.51
9.	In other services ..	22,022	18,564	6,513	1,964	28,535	20,528	6.33	5.24
	Total ..	294,513	354,276	156,285	37,562	450,798	391,838	100.00	100.00

Source : District Census Handbook 1961, Banaskantha District, p. 20 and Atlas Volume 1971, p. 48.

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per cent in 1961 and 1971 respectively, and were distributed under mining, quarrying, household industry, trade and commerce, construction activity, etc.

The following statement based on the figures supplied by the 1961 and 1971 censuses shows the distribution of workers in rural and urban areas.

It is evident that agricultural pursuits preponderate in the rural areas of this district where cultivation of land is the prime economic activity of the masses. But in the urban areas, the non-agricultural pursuits accounted for 10.07 and 6.24 per cent of workers in 1961 and 1971 censuses respectively. This shows that the pressure of population on land is aggressively higher in this district. This is because the district has no deposits of coal, iron, etc., which are very essential for industrial development of the district. Of late, deposits of lead, zinc and copper have been detected in seismographic survey by the State Department of Geology and Mining. But its commercial exploitation will be determined in course of time after the extent of such deposits is ascertained.

NON-WORKERS

The number of non-workers, *i. e.*, those not engaged in any economic activity in this district, was 54.75 and 68.98 per cent respectively, as against the State average of 58.93 and 68.55 per cent respectively during 1961 and 1971 censuses. The proportion of economically active population was thus lower in this district than even in the State as a whole on account of large number of dependents including students, women and children who were enumerated under the category of non-workers. The reasons are that there are still no industries-large or small. Other economic activities like construction of dams, bridges and buildings are also absent to a large extent. Further as the district is economically backward, its active male population might have possibly migrated to other centres, leaving their dependents in the district. This speaks for the economic backwardness of the district and the proportion of economically inactive population.

PRICES

Prices react to the law of demand and supply. Their impact



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STATEMENT IX.2
Category of Workers and Rural Urban Distribution, 1961 and 1971

Category of Workers		Percentage of Population					
		Working Population		Rural Population		Urban Population	
		1961	1971	1961	1971	1961	1971
Total workers	..	45.25	31.01	46.45	31.51	29.48	26.25
(a) <i>Agricultural pursuits</i>	..	35.18	24.77	37.59	26.94	3.62	4.01
1. As cultivators	..	32.36	19.75	34.58	21.51	3.36	2.88
2. As agricultural labourers	..	2.82	5.02	3.01	5.43	0.26	1.13
(b) <i>Non-agricultural pursuits</i>	..	10.07	6.24	8.86	4.57	25.86	22.24
1. In mining, quarrying, livestock, fishing, plantations, orchards and allied activities	..	0.96	0.75	0.99	0.77	0.53	0.57
2. At household industry	..	3.37	0.98	3.43	0.88	2.52	1.89
3. In manufacturing other than household industry	..	0.35	0.58	0.13	0.25	3.75	3.76
4. In construction	..	0.57	0.24	0.57	0.15	0.64	1.15
5. In trade and commerce	..	1.60	1.60	1.27	1.11	5.85	6.23
6. In transport, storage and communications	..	0.36	0.47	0.22	0.30	2.14	2.08
7. In other services	..	2.86	1.62	2.25	1.11	10.93	6.56

Source :

- (1) District Census Handbook 1961, Banaskantha District, p. 20.
(2) District Census Handbook 1971, Banaskantha District, Part X-C-I, pp. 68-69.



is felt on the entire economy and is focussed on the levels of living of the people. The present Banaskantha district came into existence after the merger of the princely States of Palanpur, Radhanpur, Tharad, Vav, thana, etc. It is, therefore, difficult if not impossible, to attempt a systematic analysis of prices on a comparable basis. An attempt has, however, been made to give a broad outline about prices as far as data are available.

Period from 1830 to 1918

The following Statements IX.3, IX.4 and IX.5 show the prices of foodgrains from 1830 to 1916-17.

There were two famines in 1899-1900 and 1901-02 and four years of scarcity 1891-92, 1904-05, 1911-12 and 1917-18, two years of plenty were 1890-91 and 1897-98 and others were normal. The growth of production had kept apace with the growth of population. The rise in prices of articles of food was due to excessive exports during the First World War to Europe for the allied army. An increase in export duty had the immediate effect of lowering the prices.¹

STATEMENT IX.3

Palanpur Rupee Produce Prices Lbs. in 1830-1878

Name	1830	1850	1860	1871	1875	1878
Best Rice ..	19 1/5	16	16	12 4/5	12 4/5	12 1/8
Common rice ..	38 2/5	27 3/7	27 3/7	24	24	13 2/3
Millet, bajri ..	48	38 2/5	32	21 1/3	21 1/3	22 1/2
Wheat ..	64	48	38 2/5	32	42 2/3	20

Source :

CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha*, (1880), p. 291.

STATEMENT IX.4

**Statement showing the Prices of Foodgrains for the Year 1902-03
and the Preceding five Years
(Average Prices)**

Name of State and taluka	1897--98					
	Bajri	Wheat	Math	Gram	Mug	Rice
Palanpur ..	20	19	20	19	16	13
Radhanpur ..	19	18	18	18	16	11
Tharad ..	22	15	20	16	21	10
Vav ..	25	17	28	19	24	11
Varahi ..	21	21	22	22	20	13
Deodar ..	19	16	19	17	17	20
Kankrej ..	22	20	24	21	21	14
Santalpur ..	18	18	20	18	14	9

1. *Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. IV, (1919).



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STATEMENT IX.4
Statement showing the Prices of Foodgrains for the Year
1902-03 and the Preceding five Years
(Average Prices)

Name of State and taluka	1898-99					
	Bajri	Wheat	Math	Gram	Mug	Rice
Palanpur ..	31	26	37	33	26	12
Radhanpur ..	27	26	36	28	29	14
Tharad ..	30	21	42	18	13	11
Vav ..	35	20	40	20	29	11
Varahi ..	30	25	35	31	32	12
Deodar ..	34	21	40	28	32	13
Kankrej ..	32	27	40	40	32	13
Santalpur ..	28	24	34	28	24	12
Name of State and taluka	1899-1900					
	Bajri	Wheat	Math	Gram	Mug	Rice
Palanpur ..	24	22	26	25	20	13
Radhanpur ..	15	15	16	15	14	12
Tharad ..	24	18	26	7	22	13
Vav ..	14	18	24	15	23	...
Varahi ..	25	25	28	26	24	16
Deodar ..	23	20	22	20	22	15
Kankrej ..	25	24	27	26	25	16
Santalpur ..	21	20	20	20	24	12
Name of State and taluka	1900-01					
	Bajri	Wheat	Math	Gram	Mug	Rice
Palanpur ..	24	19	24	20	11	13
Radhanpur ..	19	15	20	17	14	12
Tharad ..	22	14	22	..	16	12
Vav ..	19	15	21	14	17	15
Varahi ..	17	15	16	15	13	15
Deodar ..	20	15	..	17	13	14
Kankrej ..	23	18	21	18	15	16
Santalpur ..	18	13	16	16	13	12

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STATEMENT IX.4—concl.
Statement showing the Prices of Foodgrains for the Year
1902-03 and the Preceding five Years
(Average Prices)

Name of State and taluka	1901-02.					
	Bajri	Wheat	Math	Gram	Mug	Rice
Palanpur ..	29 1/2	26	30	26	16 1/2	12 1/2
Radhanpur ..	26	25	25	22	16	13
Tharad ..	25	20	26	..	17	13
Vav ..	25	22	24	16	18	14
Varahi ..	24	23	20	20	15	18
Deodar ..	26	20	17	20	16	16
Kankrej ..	30	27	26	25	15	13
Santalpur ..	24	21	14	20	13	12

Name of State and taluka	1902-1903					
	Bajri	Wheat	Math	Gram	Mug	Rice
Palanpur ..	30	24	30	26	20	15
Radhanpur ..	32	30	31 1/2	33	16	16
Tharad ..	22	20	21	21	15	13
Vav ..	23	22	21	20	18	15
Varahi ..	19	21	16	21	16	16
Deodar ..	24	21	18	22	16	16
Kankrej ..	27	25 1/2	21	25 1/2	20	13
Santalpur ..	21	20	21	20	15	12

Source : Administration Report of the Palanpur Agency for the year, (1902-03), p.27.

STATEMENT IX.5

Prices of staples Foodgrains per Maund of 40 Pounds

Year	Wheat		Bajri		Jowari		Moong		Rice	
	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.
1907-08	2-2-0		1-15-0		1-14-0		4-8-0		2-0-0	
1908-09	2-2-0		1-12-0		1-9-0		4-1-0		1-12-0	
1909-10	2-3-0		1-9-0		1-5-0		3-12-0		1-10-0	
1910-11	1-11-0		1-8-0		1-5-0		3-4-0		1-9-0	
1911-12	2-2-0		1-15-0		1-9-0		3-14-0		2-8-0	
1912-13	2-4-6		1-7-9		1-6-0		3-15-0		2-2-0	
1913-14	2-4-0		2-1-0		1-14-0		4-8-0		2-4-0	
1914-15	2-5-6		2-0-0		1-8-9		4-8-0		2-8-0	
1915-16	2-7-5		2-4-7		1-12-5		4-6-4		2-12-10	
1916-17	2-6-0		1-6-6		1-2-3		4-3-0		2-2-6	
1917-18	2-11-6		2-7-0		Not		2-11-6		..	

Source : (1) Palanpur Agency Directory, Vol. IV, (1919), p. 119
(2) Annual Administration Report of Palanpur State for the year 1917-18.

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Palanpur State

The Summary Report of the Administration of the Palanpur State throws light on the prices for the period from 1928-29 to 1937-38. The statement shows that prices in 1928-30 were highest and thereafter went down on account of World Depression. The downward trend lasted till 1937--38. Prices between 1940-41 and 1945--46 were higher on account of operations of the Second World War. There was artificial scarcity of foodgrains in the country on account of exports to Middle East and African fronts for supporting the allied armies engaged in the War. This period witnessed abnormal rise in prices of essential commodities and the rise was as high as three times in all the commodities including edible oils. The State Government were compelled to enforce strict rationing in respect of essential commodities and also promulgated legislations prohibiting profiteering, hoarding, etc., in accordance with the instructions of the Government of India. Fair price shops including cheap grain shops were opened for providing relief to the general public and economically weaker sections of the population. The trend of prices during this period is indicated in the following Statements IX.6 and XI.7.

STATEMENT IX.6

**The Prices of Foodgrains Per Maund of 40 Seers Prevailing from
1928-29 to 1937-38**

Commodity/year	1928-29		1929-30		1930-31		1931-32		1934-35		1935-36		1936-37		1937-38	
	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	Ps.
Wheat ..	3.8		2.13		1.13		1.12		1.8		1.14		1.13		1.12	
Bajri ..	2.11		2.11		1.10		1.6		1.4		1.8		1.9		1.6	
Jowari ..	2.3		2.4		1.6		1.2		1.2		1.6		1.10		1.3	
Mung ..	3.5		3.6		2.14		2.5		1.7		2.1		2.1		2.3	
Math ..	2.3		2.4		1.10		1.3		1.0		1.4		1.9		1.2	
Adadi ..	2.11		2.3		2.4		2.4		1.5		1.12		2.2		1.9	
Gram ..	2.12		2.10		1.14		1.6		1.2		1.8		1.9		1.8	
Rice ..	6.3		5.12		4.6		3.5		2.9		3.8		3.13		3.12	
China ..	2.1		2.3		2.0		1.4		0.15		1.2		1.4		1.5	
Ghee ..	23.8		24.13		25.5		23.2		19.0		22.0		21.12		21.15	
Sweet-oil ..	9.14		9.0		7.0		7.3		7.0		8.0		7.15		6.10	
Rapseed oil	11.3		9.14		7.3		6.8		6.8		8.0		7.8		6.14	

Source :

Summary Report of the Administration of the Palanpur State, 1928-29, 1929-30, 1930-31, 1931-32, 1934-35, 1935-36, 1936-37 and 1937-38.



1981 -Banaskantha District Gazetteers Gujarat State (1317)

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STATEMENT IX.7

Palanpur State

The Prices of Foodgrains Per Maund of 40 Seers from 1941-42 to 1945-46

Year	Wheat		Bajri		Jowari		Mung		Math		Adad		Gram		Rice		China		Ghee		Sweet oil		Rapsseed oil	
	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.
1941-42	2.10		1.14		1.12		3.8		2.2		2.15		2.13		6.11		1.14		27.4		10.15		9.13	
1942-43	3.9		2.11		3.2		3.8		2.9		3.10		5.7		12.11		2.14		43.12		17.0		16.15	
1943-44	4.7		3.0		3.4		3.14		3.6		4.0		5.12		14.0		3.2		44.4		20.6		20.6	
1944-45	5.8		3.5		5.2		4.4		4.8		6.8		4.6		13.10		5.10		48.8		25.14		22.14	
1945-46	6.4		5.2		5.0		5.6		5.5		5.6		4.4		11.14		5.2		64.8		28.3		25.1	

Source:

Summary Report of the Administration of the Palanpur State, 1941-42 to 1945-46.

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Radhanpur State

Very little information on the subject is available for the State of Radhanpur. The following table shows prices for the years 1916 to 1921. It shows that the rates remained very high on account of failure of *kharif* crops, less out-turn of wheat and *jowar* and delay in importing foodstuffs from outside owing to the stoppage of booking for certain periods. Thereafter no data are available. But it can be generally said that prices might have reacted to the steep fall which ruled the markets over the world in the period between depression of 1929 till the outbreak of War in 1939. Thereafter prices began to rise at a very high level. For, wheat which was sold at Rs. 3.8 annas in 1944 a maund rose to Rs. 4.8 annas in 1945. The rate for increase in *bajri* was Rs. 4 from Rs. 2-8 annas and that for *jowar* Rs. 3-8 annas from Rs. 1-14 annas. This is indicated in the following table.

The following table shows the prices of staple-foodgrains during the year 1916 to 1921

Articles	(RATE PER MAUND)					
	Year					
	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921
	Rs.A.Ps.	Rs.A.Ps.	Rs.A.Ps.	Rs.A.Ps.	Rs.A.Ps.	Rs.A.Ps.
Wheat	2-6-0	1-11-0	3-2-0	4-8-0	2-12-0	3-4-0
Bajri	2-6-0	1-9-0	3-2-0	4-4-0	2-12-0	2-14-0
Mug	4-0-0	2-0-0	2-14-0	8-8-0	5-0-0	5-8-0
Gram	2-2-0	1-10-0	2-6-0	4-8-0	2-12-0	4-0-0
Adad	3-0-0	2-6-0	2-10-0	5-13-0	5-8-0	5-0-0
Banti	1-8-0	1-2-0	1-2-0	3-2-0	1-8-0	1-12-0
Math	2-4-0	1-5-0	2-0-0	3-8-0	3-0-0	3-4-0
Gubar	2-4-0	1-6-0	1-7-0	2-8-6	2-8-0	3-4-0
Juwari	1-11-0	1-4-0	3-0-0	4-7-6	2-0-0	2-6-0
Chhastio	2-0-4	1-4-0	2-0-0	5-0-0	1-12-0	2-6-0
Jav	2-4-0	1-8-0	1-3-0	3-2-0	2-4-0	2-0-0

Source :

Annual Administration Report of the Radhanpur State for the years 1916-17 to 1920-21.

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The following table shows prices of staple food-grains in the Radhanpur State for the years 1944 and 1945 :

Articles					Rate per maund during October 1944 Rs. A. Ps.	Rate per maund during October 1945 Rs. A. Ps.
Wheat	..	..	..	..	3-8-0	4-8-0
Bajri	..	..	..	..	2-8-0	4-0-0
Mung	..	..	..	..	3-6-0	3-4-0
Gram	..	..	..	..	4-8-0	4-4-0
Adad	..	..	..	..	N.A.	N.A.
Banti	..	..	..	..	N.A.	2-8-0
Guwar	..	..	..	..	N.A.	3-8-0
Math	..	..	..	..	2-0-0	N.A.
Juwar	..	..	..	..	2-1-0	3-12-0
Chhastio	..	..	..	..	1-14-0	3-8-0
Barley	..	..	..	..	N.A.	N.A.

NOTE : N.A.=Not available.

Source :

Administration Report of the Radhanpur State for the year 1944--45.

Danta State

Figures of prices of the Danta State are available for the years 1927--28 and 1928--29 only which related to the pre-depression period. Prices for wheat, rice, *udid*, *mug*, *jowari* and gram were higher in 1928--29 as compared to the previous year. No data prior to this period and of period thereafter are available from any source. It is, therefore, extremely difficult to focus the trend of prices in the Danta State. But price statistics of the Palanpur and Radhanpur States, for this period show that the prices of these commodities were much the same in those States as in Danta.



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Prices in the Danta State

Articles	Year					
	1927-28			1928-29		
	Rs.	As	Ps.	Rs.	As	Ps.
Wheat	2-0-0			3-8-0		
Bairi ¹	2-8-0			2-8-0		
Barley	1-12-0			2-8-0		
Math	2-8-0			2-0-0		
Maize	1-4-0			2-8-0		
Rice (Fine) ..	6-8-0			7-0-0		
Rice (Ordinary) ..	4-4-0			5-0-0		
Udid pulse ..	3-4-0			4-0-0		
Mug pulse ..	4-0-0			5-0-0		
Toor pulse ..	6-0-0			5-12-0		
Jowari	2-8-0			2-8-0		
Banti	1-0-0			1-0-0		
Kodra	1-0-0			1-0-0		
Mal	1-8-0			1-4-0		
Gram	1-5-0			2-8-0		
Cheno	1-8-0			1-12-0		
Kang	1-6-0			1-10-0		

Source : *Annual Administration Report of the Danta State for the year 1928-29, Appendix, XVIII.*

Period from 1947 to 1972

The Second World War ended in 1945. India became free in 1947 but its economy was in doldrums on account of partition, migration of refugees and aggression on Kashmir. Moreover, on account of transfer of fertile lands to West Pakistan there was shortage of foodgrains in the country. This shortage was partially made good by import of foodgrains from abroad, but the prices of essential commodities including edible oils were at high level. In 1952 the Government increased the bank rate from 3 to 3½ per cent as an anti-inflationary measure. Prices, therefore, received a set back. Moreover, rationing was removed



from the country in 1954 following a good harvest in the preceeding year. Secondly the principle of planned development was accepted from 1950--51 and large investments were made in essential sectors for raising production. Moreover, the population of the country has been continuously increasing from 1931 onwards. On account of health measures taken under the Plans, there has been a reduction in the death rate. So there is a continuous net accretion to the country's population. The investments made in agriculture, industry, etc., did not yield quick results. Therefore, prices have been rising at a steady and sharp rate. External aggressions have had also a great influence on the price structure. Towards the close of the Third Five Year Plan prices have begun to rise at steep rate causing widespread hardships to the people particularly those in the lower and middle strata. Government, therefore, has opened fair price shops and foodgrains, edible oil and sugar are distributed on the family cards at rates lower than those in the open market. Against this background the sub-joined Statements IX.8 and IX.9 show the prices of commodities upto the year 1974.

STATEMENT IX.8

Statement showing the farm (harvest) Prices for Kharif and Rabi Season for the Year 1965-66, 1970-71 and 1972-73.

PRICES IN RS. AND PAISE PER 100 KG.									
Year	Rice	Maize	Bajri	Cotton	Sesamum	Grou-ndnut	Jowar	Wheat	Barley
1965-66	..	60.00	66.95	..	145.87	84.20	64.28	70 00	..
1970-71	90.00	40.00	..	193.00	191.44	140 00	56.70	88.20	36.50
1972-73	105.00	95.00	99.50	210.00	285.00	179.00	113.45	126.00	80.00

Year	Gram	Castor	Tur	Rape and Mustard.
1965-66	108.96	87.20	90 67	106.25
1970-71	97.50	134.50	110.00	165.83
1972-73	150.00	198.75	143.30	179.00

Source :

The Director of Agriculture, Ahmadabad.



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STATEMENT IX.9

(PRICE ARE-IN RS. AND PS.
PER MAUND OF 82.2—7LBS)

Crop/Year		Rice (Paddy)	Wheat	Jowar	Bajri	Barley
1949-50	..	15.00	18.87	12.50	13.56	12.50
1950-51	..	..	18.62	11.37	12.37	11.19
1951-52	..	20.00	17.50	12.87	13.00	13.69
1952-53	..	20.00	20.00	13.50	12.31	14.00
1953-54	..	20.00	18.81	10.06	11.00	8.00
1954-55	..	16.25	16.50	6.81	7.25	7.00
1955-56	..	15.12	14.87	11.12	11.37	..
1956-57	..	..	17.24	11.59	14.03	..
1957-58	..	..	16.07	13.17	13.86	..
1958-59	..	..	22.80	12.75	13.00	..
1959-60	..	19.75	16.64	13.18	14.73	..
1960-61	..	20.25	17.27	13.77	15.04	..
1961-62	..	..	18.65	14.11	14.04	..

STATEMENT IX.9—contd.

Crop/Year	Maize	Kodra	Tur dal	Gram	Cotton (unginned)	Groundnut	
1949-50	..	10.44	..	..	16.00	..	
1950-51	..	9.50	..	..	16.37	..	
1951-52	..	10.00	..	21.00	91.75	..	
1952-53	..	10.00	..	24.75	12.00	24.50	29.00
1953-54	..	10.06	8.00	14.87	14.00	43.75	..
1954-55	..	5.50	5.00	10.00	9.00	40.00	10.00
1955-56	..	11.00	..	..	14.00	..	..
1956-57	..	9.00	..	..	..	..	..
1957-58	..	13.00	..	..	..	..	..
1958-59	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1959-60	..	..	..	..	12.45	..	16.19
1960-61	..	..	..	..	13.18	..	17.15
1961-62	..	..	..	..	15.08	..	..

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SEATEMENT IX.9—concl'd.

Year/Crop.	Castor-seed	Rape-seed	Mustard	Sesamum	Tobacco
1949-50 ..	..	34.00	38.00	31.75	145.00
1950-51 ..	..	34.00	38.00	31.19	150.00
1951-52 ..	22.12	31.69	32.50	28.69	70.00
1952-53 ..	21.50	36.00	36.00	32.06	36.00
1953-54 ..	16.62	35.00	26.62	26.44	40.00
1954-55 ..	15.43	15.00	15.00	15.25	35.00
1955-56 ..	18.00	20.00	20.00	25.80	..
1956-57 ..	21.14	30.00	30.00	31.22	..
1957-58 ..	22.25	..	..	32.85	..
1958-59 ..	21.56	26.00	26.00	31.55	..
1959-60 ..	..	..	..	27.14	..
1960-61 ..	..	..	..	29.00	..
1961-62 ..	..	..	..	30.04	..

Source :

Basic Agricultural Statistics of Gujarat State for Period 1949-50 to 1961-62,
pp. 88-89.

WAGES.

The Banaskantha district constituted as at present came into existence in 1949 after the merger of large and small States and petty principalities. Of these, Palanpur and Radhanpur were class-I States whereas others were small estates. On account of absence of proper machinery in these States, the data about wage rates are not available to facilitate a comparative study over a period of time. As a result the scope of the discussion on the subjects is limited to the extent statistical and other material are made available from past records.

As the term suggests, wages generally signify all remunerations capable of being expressed in terms of money paid to a person for the work done by him/her. The level of wages obtaining at a particular period gives an indication about the prevailing economic condition. Price fluctuation have a direct bearing on wage level and wages rise and fall according to vicissitudes of prices. The following extracts from the former *Bombay Gazetteer* and the *Administration Reports* of the princely States of Palanpur and Radhanpur throw some light on the wage structure in the former States.



“In 1850 the daily wage of a man employed in field labour was 3d. (2 as) and two pounds of millet, of a blacksmith 6 d. (4 as), of a bricklayer 6 d. (4 as) and of a carpenter 10-1/2 (7 as). In 1870-71, the daily wage of a field labour was 3 3-/8d. (2-1/2 as) and two pounds of grain of a blacksmith or bricklayer 9d. (6 as) and of a carpenter is 3d. (10 as). In 1874-75 field labourers earned 4-1/2 (3 as) and two pounds of grain a day, blacksmiths and bricklayers 1s. (8 as) and carpenters 1s. 6d. (12 as). In 1877--78 the daily wage of a man employed in field labour was 4-1/2 d (3 as) and two pounds of millet, of a blacksmith 1s. (8 as) of a bricklayer 1s. 3d (10 as), and of a carpenter 1 s. 6 d. (12 as.). Women and children are largely employed as daily labourers. The usual terms are a little more grain than is wanted for food, and from 3d. to 4-7/8d. (2-3-1/4 as) in money. ”¹

There was American Civil War between 1861--64 and invasion of locusts in Gujarat in 1869 which destroyed the entire *kharif* crop. Wages of bricklayer and carpenter were, therefore, higher in 1870-71. *The Administration Report on the Palanpur Agency* for the year 1912-13 states that people who had gone to Sindh and other places to earn their livelihood began to return in the month of June. Labourers found employment in the field and daily rates of wages varied from 5 to 3 annas. In the year 1916-17 the rates of wages ranged between 4 and 6 annas a day.

No data on wages thereafter are available for the remaining period. Generally it can be said that till the onset of depression in 1929 wages were more or less steady but received a powerful setback as a result of downward trend from 1929 onwards, when prices fell precipitately causing widespread economic dislocation. However, after the outbreak of war in 1939, wages began to improve steadily and were on a higher plank than the pre-war period.

After Independence

After the merger of princely States in the Banaskantha region into the Indian union, the influence of wage trends prevailing in the country gradually began to be felt in this district also. As a result, remuneration paid to different categories of workers came to be

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha*, (1880), p. 297.



governed by such factors as inflationary conditions, general law of supply and demand, nature of work and skill and aptitude required, etc.

The average daily wages for different categories of agricultural labourers in the district during 1950-51 to 1971-72 are given in the sub-joined Statement IX.10.

The statistics reveal that the fluctuations in the wages during the period 1950-51 to 1961-62 for all classes of labourers were comparatively less marked. The data for the year 1965-66 and 1971-72 reveal that the rates of wages went high due to migration of labourers to the nearby cities, in search of better paid jobs. Moreover, there was rise in prices of essential commodities including foodgrains. Further, the economy of the district is dominated by agriculture. On account of absence of alternative means of employment in the district there is migration of able bodied persons to industrial towns. There is, therefore, a greater dependence on land. These factors were responsible for keeping the wage rate for skilled labour higher than those for other categories.

STATEMENT IX.10

Statement showing the Average Daily Wages paid to Agricultural and Skilled Labour for the Years 1951-52 to 1971-72

(WAGES IN RS. AND PAISE)

Type of labour	Years					
	1951-52	1955-56	1959-60	1965-66	1969-70	1971-72
Skilled labour :						
Carpenter	3.75	4.00	4.46	5.02	6.56	7.94
Blacksmith	3.37	3.56	4.23	4.30	6.56	7.81
Mochi	3.87	3.31	3.92	4.29	6.25	7.29
Field labour :						
Man	1.56	1.75	1.83	2.19	2.37	3.31
Ordinary labour :						
Man	1.25	1.31	1.68	2.30	2.40	2.97
Herdsmen :						
Man	1.31	1.06	1.35	1.50	..	2.18

Source :

- (1) The Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad. *Basic Agricultural Statistics of Gujarat State for the period 1949--50 to 1961--62* (1968).
- (2) The Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.



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STANDARD OF LIVING

The income accrued to a family and the expenditure incurred by it to obtain various necessities and amenities of life broadly determine its standard of living. A study of the family budgets of people belonging to different income groups therefore proves useful in understanding the standard of living of the people in general. With this object in view, this office conducted a family budget survey of about 275 families from different strata of society both in the rural and urban areas of the district during the year 1974--75. The conclusions derived from this survey are broadly summarised in the following paragraphs :

The district is backward socially and economically. It also lags behind in industrial expansion and educational development. Thus the percentage of literacy (15.76) in the district is less than half of what it is in the State as a whole (35.79). Moreover, the district is predominantly rural as 90.50 per cent of its population (as against 72 in the State) resides in villages.

URBAN

There are only 8 towns in the district with a total urban population of 119,589 which constitutes merely 9.45 per cent of the district population. The percentage of urban population in this district is thus much lower than in most other districts of Gujarat. It is also very low compared to 28 per cent in the State as a whole. Of the 8 towns, the biggest is Palanpur with a population of 42,114 followed by Deesa (28,324) and Radhanpur (18,360). The rest of the towns have population of less than 10,000 each.

The town of Palanpur, being the biggest, was selected for the urban sector. About 100 families from this centre were surveyed. Families were divided into three income groups: (1) those with an annual income below Rs. 3,000, (2) those having an annual income of more than Rs. 3,000 but less than Rs. 6,000 and (3) those earning above Rs. 6,000 per annum.

Group I (Annual Income less than Rs. 3,000)

This income group constitutes the poorest stratum of the urban society. It consists mainly of unskilled and semi-skilled



labourers, shop assistants, lower clerical staff, small artisans, etc. The families in this group earned less than Rs. 3,000 per year or Rs. 250 per month. About 75 per cent of the families surveyed were under debt as their expenditure far exceeded their income. Their average debt amounted to more than Rs. 2,000 per family. As the year of survey happened to be a year of scarcity, their economic condition had worsened due to rising prices and their limited income. The average annual income per family was nearly Rs. 2,020 while the average expenditure was Rs. 3,145 showing an annual deficit of Rs. 1,125 per family. Regarding their expenditure patterns, food alone accounted for more than 64 per cent of the total. Clothing accounted for nearly 11 per cent. About 75 per cent was thus spent on food and clothing leaving little for other comforts of life. Most of the families lived in rented premises and paid rents varying from Rs. 10 to 40. Tea and *beedi* or cigarettes accounted for nearly 5 per cent of their expenditure. Nearly 3 per cent was spent on fuel and lighting, 2 per cent on medicine and about 4 per cent on religious and other ceremonies. The remainder was spent on miscellaneous items of expenditure. Education accounted for a negligible percentage. The percentage of literacy in this group was 50 for males and 30 for females.

Group II (Annual income between Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 6,000)

What is popularly known as the lower middle class comes under this income group. It consists of petty shop-keepers, school teachers, low-paid Government servants, etc. The average annual income of a family in this group amounted to Rs. 4,400 while the average expenditure was Rs. 7,100 thus leaving a deficit of Rs. 2,700 per year. As in the previous group, about 75 per cent of the families in this group also were in debt. The debt was usually incurred to meet special social occasions.

Their expenditure pattern was peculiar. Unlike in the previous group, a large proportion was spent on clothing, education, medical care, house rent, etc. Food, of course formed the main item of expenditure accounting for about 50 per cent of the total. Clothing accounted for 16 per cent and education for nearly 8 per cent. Tea and *beedi* accounted for as much as 5 per cent followed by fuel and lighting which accounted for about 5 per cent, medicine 5 per cent and housing a little less than that. Religious and social occasions accounted for nearly 2 per cent. The rest was spent on miscell-



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aneous items of expenditure. Most of the families lived in the rented houses, their rents varying between Rs. 25 and Rs. 100. Their household equipment included a simple set of furniture such as a chair and a table, a few metal utensils, etc. The mounting prices in articles of consumers need during the last few years have very adversely affected the fixed income groups comprising the middle classes. About 81 per cent of the males and 49 of the females in this group were literates.

Group III (Annual income above Rs. 6,000)

The upper layer of the urban society in this district is covered under this income group. It comprises Government servants of higher grade, medical practitioners, lawyers, proprietors of industrial establishments, etc. They earned more than Rs. 6,000 a year. Most of the families surveyed had income varying from Rs. 7,000 to Rs. 12,000. All families in this group reported surplus budgets. These families had regular saving which they either deposited with banks or invested in business.

Compared to the previous two groups, the expenditure pattern of this group revealed many interesting variations. They spent about 45 per cent on food, 13 per cent on clothing, 5 per cent on education, 5 per cent on medicine, 4 per cent on religious and social ceremonies and nearly 2 per cent on entertainments. Most of them lived in their own houses. Those who lived in rented premises paid rent which formed on an average about 10 per cent of their total expenditure. Thus, while the percentage of expenditure on food was the least in this group, that on clothing, housing and entertainment was the highest. They owned radio sets, costly items of furniture and precious ornaments. The percentage of literacy was the highest in this group. About 85 per cent of the males and 60 per cent of the females were reported literates.

The survey revealed that as far as the urban area of the district was concerned the average expenditure per family varied from Rs. 260 per month for the poorest to Rs. 1,000 for the highest income group. The average income per family varied from Rs. 170 for the lowest group to Rs. 1,100 for the highest one revealing the great disparity in income and expenditure of the various income groups in the urban area of the district.



RURAL

According to the 1971 census, the district had 1,360 villages spread over 11 talukas. Eleven villages, one from each taluka of the district, were selected for the survey in the rural areas. The families were classified into two broad categories : (1) agriculturists and (2) non-agriculturists. The former were again divided into three categories according to the size of their land holdings. Those having less than 5 acres of land were grouped as small cultivators, those with more than 5 acres but less than 25 acres were termed as medium cultivators, and those with more than 25 acres were considered as large cultivators.

Agriculturists

The standard of living of the cultivating class depends to a great extent on the size of their land holdings. The data about the number of land holders and the size of land hold by them in the year 1973-74 are given in the following statement.

STATEMENT IX.11

Statement showing details about land holdings during the Year 1973-74

Area	No. of holders	Percentage to total holders	Area held	Percentage to total area held
1	2	3	4	5
0 to 5 acres.	41,740	28.84	1,10,878	5.85
6 to 25 acres.	79,623	55.00	9,39,510	49.58
More than 25 acres.	23,397	16.16	8,44,538	44.57
Total ..	144,760	100.00	18,94,926	100.00

Source : Collector, Banaskantha District.

The statement reveals a glaring inequality in possession of land between large and small cultivators. Cultivators having less than five acres each constitute 28.84 per cent of the total land holders but hold among them only 5.85 per cent of the total agricultural land. On the other hand, large cultivators who form only 16 per cent of the total land holders own more than 44 per cent of the total holdings. The bulk of the cultivators (55 per cent) are middle-sized and hold about 50 per cent of the land.



The agriculturists, as a rule, consume food grains produced by them. In respect of other items such as milk, vegetable, firewood, etc., they usually do not go to the market to purchase them. Moreover, many of the small cultivators supplement their income by following allied occupations or by working as labourers. As a result, any estimate regarding their expenditure on such items is bound to prove either broad or partly correct estimates.

Small Cultivators

Nearly 29 per cent of the total cultivators in this district are small cultivators. Such cultivators are predominantly settled in Danta, Vadgam and Palanpur talukas. Of the 54 families surveyed from this group, a large majority faced a considerable amount of under employment coupled with periods of enforced idleness. This was because of their uneconomic holdings. Many of them worked as agricultural labourers to supplement their income. A correct estimate of their annual income was difficult as it varied from year to year. However, according to a rough estimate, they earned on an average about Rs. 4,000 a year. This was mostly derived from farming and agricultural labour. In most of the families almost all adult members were found doing manual labour during some part of the year or whenever they could find such employment. It could be estimated that their consumption of food amounted to about 64 per cent of their total expenditure. Clothing accounted for nearly 10 per cent. About 5 per cent was spent on tea, beedi and tobacco. Expenditure on education formed barely one per cent of the total, but expenditure on social and religious occasions accounted for about 5 per cent. About 80 per cent of them lived in their own houses which were small in size and poor in ventilation. Many of them owned a bullock or two; the others did not have even this and they hired them in days of need. A few families possessed bullock carts. Their household articles were few and simple. None of them possessed gold ornaments, though many owned silver ornaments. Percentage of literacy among this group could be worked out at 24 per cent among the males and only 3 per cent among the females.

Medium Cultivators

Cultivators with land holdings between 6 and 25 acres, are termed as medium cultivators. About 55 per cent of the total



cultivators in this district are medium cultivators. 54 families were surveyed from this group. Their main source of income was cultivation supplemented by dairying. The average annual income of a family was estimated at Rs. 6,400. About 50 per cent of the families showed a clear surplus budget; on the other hand more than 40 per cent of them showed deficit budget with a large backlog of past debts. It was found that more than half of the debt was incurred for agricultural improvement, and the remainder for meeting some social obligation like marriage. Their expenditure pattern showed that nearly 52 per cent was spent on food. Cloth accounted for nearly 14 per cent and expenditure on tea, tobacco, beedi, etc., formed nearly 5 per cent. Miscellaneous expenditure incurred on social occasions, medical treatment, pilgrimage, house repairs etc., accounted for 15 per cent. Most of them lived in their own pucca-built houses. Their household assets included a pair or two of bullocks and one or two cows or buffaloes. They owned their own bullock carts and other agricultural implements. Many of them possessed transistor radio sets, wrist watches, bicycles, etc. Quite a few invested their savings in gold and silver. About 32 per cent of the males and 6 per cent of the females were reported as literates.

Large Cultivators

The large cultivators constitute only 16 per cent of the total cultivators in this district but own more than 44 per cent of the total cultivated area. Each of them has more than 25 acres of land and as such they constitute the affluent class in the rural economy. Such large cultivators are chiefly concentrated in Vav, Tharad and Deesa talukas. Use of scientific methods of cultivation and improved implements has improved their standard of living to an appreciable extent. On an average, the annual income of a family under this group came to Rs. 11,000. All except a few of the 54 families surveyed reported surplus budget though several of them said they could not save regularly. Their savings were mostly reinvested in agriculture or in profitable investment or in gold and silver. On expenditure side, their actual expenditure on food articles could not be calculated precisely in term of money as most of their requirements of food, milk, vegetables, etc., were met from their own produce. It was broadly estimated that about 55 per cent was spent on food. Clothing accounted for 15 per cent while tea and tobacco for nearly 5 per cent. They spent lavishly on marriage and other social



occasions where much of their saving was utilized. Besides cattle and agricultural implements, many of them had oil engines and tractors for agricultural purposes. The percentage of literacy was 30 among the males and 12 among the females.

Non-Agriculturists

Village artisans, traders, primary school teachers and others constitute the non agricultural class in rural areas. The village artisans include the blacksmith, the carpenter, the cobbler, the potter, the barber, etc., who cater to the needs of the local population. Their earnings depend upon the size of the village and the economic condition of the people. These artisans are mostly paid in kind. The traders who live a fairly comfortable life play an important role in the rural economy. They normally purchase the farm produce from the small cultivators, supply them provisions, and at times also advance them loans thus playing the role of buyer, seller and money-lender.

The salaried people mainly consist of school teachers and officials in the Panchayat services, post and telegraph, etc. Most of them had balanced budgets. Forty five per cent of the families were reported in debt. This debt was mostly incurred for meeting a special situation like marriage in the family, major illness, higher education for children, etc. Literacy percentage was a little higher in this group as compared to other groups in rural areas. It was 40 per cent for the males and 15 per cent for the females.

General Level of Employment

The 1961 census, for the first time assessed the quantum of employment provided by the primary, the secondary and the tertiary sectors of the economy.

The following Statement IX.12 throws light on the actual percentage of the working force engaged in these sectors according to the data furnished by the 1961 Census.¹ The figures of the previous 1951 census have been included with a view to assessing the inter-sectoral and inter-censal increase or decrease in the working force. Out of the total working force in the district, 79.88 per cent was engaged in the primary sector, *i. e.*, agriculture and allied acti-

¹K—I. Such figures for the 1971 Census are not available.



vities like mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, etc. This shows the extent of dependence on land in the district. But the number of persons actually working as cultivators have decreased by 2.04 per cent only as compared to the figures of the 1951 Census. But there is a corresponding increase in the strength of agricultural labourers too because on account of implementation of land reforms measures, many of the landholders took up cultivation themselves. There is also a marginal decline in the workers in mining, quarrying, forestry, etc., as forests are confined to Danta and part of Palanpur talukas only and deposits of minerals like copper and zinc have recently been detected and their commercial exploitation and extent of use have yet to be determined.

STATEMENT IX. 12

Percentage Distribution Working Force by Sector Between 1951 and 1961

PRIMARY SECTOR							
Total		As cultivator		As agricultural labourers		In mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards and allied activities.	
1951	1961	1951	1961	1951	1961	1951	1961
81.46	79.88	73.55	71.51	3.86	6.23	4.05	2.14
SECONDARY SECTOR							
Total		At household industry and in manufacturing other than household industry				In construction	
1951	1961	1951	1961	1951	1961	1951	1961
5.59	9.47	5.01	8.21			0.58	1.26
TERTIARY SECTOR							
Total		In trade and commerce		In transport, storage and communications		In other services	
1951	1961	1951	1961	1951	1961	1951	1961
12.95	10.65	4.22	3.53	0.75	0.79	7.98	6.33

Source :

Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part-I-A(iii), *General Report on the Census, Economic Trends and Projections*, (1965), pp. 12-13.



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In the secondary sector, the total working force increased by 3.88 per cent during 1951-61. This is reflected in the number of persons working in industry, both household and manufacturing and in construction, but in the tertiary sector, there is a decline in the working force by 2.30 per cent which is confined to trade and commerce and other services. These trends indicate inter-sectoral migration from agriculture to industry as also of general population migration on account of economic backwardness of the district. There are no large scale industries while trade and commercial activities have also not expanded considerably. It is, therefore, quite natural that traders of this district might have shifted to other areas in the State for better prospects.

The following Statement IX.13 shows variations in employment of the working population in different industrial categories during the decade 1951-61.

The statement shows that the total working force in the district increased by 25.33 per cent during the inter-censal period 1951-61. The corresponding increase in the whole State was 28.91 per cent for all the three sectors.

In the primary sector the working force increased by 23.18 per cent between 1951-61 which indicates pressure of population on land. With land area remaining the same or decreasing due to urbanisation, more people tried to take out their living on land than previously. This speaks for the economic backwardness of the district. The increase in the secondary sector was more marked. The total working force in this sector increased by 113.09 per cent in the decade 1951-61. Of these a majority was found in industry-household and non-household. The workers in construction activities increased by 173.71 per cent, due to spur in building and construction activities during the planning periods.

However, the workers in the remaining tertiary sector increased by 3.34 per cent only. But the persons working in transport, storage and communications increased by 33.76 per cent in the decade indicating expansion in the transport and communications facilities in the district.

It can thus be seen that the increase in working force in the secondary sector as compared to those in the primary and tertiary

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sector helps to indicate a definite shift of population from one branch to another, which is a welcome sign for the districts' economy, as it reveals a tendency to reduce pressure on land and may be effective in years to come.

STATEMENT IX.13

Variation in Working Population By Industrial Sectors Between 1951-1961

Sector	District Working Population		Increase or decreases		Percentage increase or decrease		Gujarat State Percentage increase or decrease	
	1951	1961	1951	1961	1951	1961	1951	1961
1	2	3	4	5	6			
1. All Sectors ..	358,824	450,798	+91,974	+ 25.63	+ 28.91			
2. Primary Sector ..	292,314	360,070	+66,756	+ 23.18	+ 33.13			
As cultivators ..	263,922	322,377	+58,455	+ 22.15	+ 53.09			
As agricultural labourers	13,859	28,061	+14,202	+102.47	+ 2.17			
In mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards and allied activities ..	14,533	9,632	-4,901	- 33.72	- 55.62			
Secondary Sector ..	20,042	42,707	+22,665	+113.09	+ 63.07			
At household industry and in manufacturing other than household industry ..	17,961	37,011	+19,050	+106.63	+61.87			
In construction ..	2,081	5,696	+3,615	+173.71	+79.21			
Tertiary Sector ..	46,468	48,021	+1,553	+ 3.34	-1.30			
In trade and commerce ..	15,153	15,912	+759	+5.01	+0.40			
In transport, storage and communications ..	2,672	3,574	+902	+33.76	+59.30			
In other services ..	28,643	28,535	-108	-0.38	-8.59			

Source :

Census of India 1961, Vol. V, Gujarat, Part I-A (iii), *General Report on the Census, Economic Trends and Projections*, (1965), pp. 5, 10-11.



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Employment Exchange

The Government of India has opened the Employment Exchanges at important centres throughout the country from July, 1945 to assist in the resettlement of ex-service personnel and other discharged workers. Nowadays the National Employment Service is available to the persons, who wish to register themselves for employment assistance and to all the employers, who desire to make use of it. The services rendered by this organisation are described below in brief.

The employment exchange office for the Banaskantha district was opened on 2nd March, 1959. It caters to the needs of the people of this district. The activities of the exchange are divided into three sections, viz., (1) Exchange side, (2) the Employment Market Information Unit, and (3) the Vocational Guidance Section.

The Exchange Side—It gives employment assistance to the registrants according to their qualifications and aptitude, collects and disseminates regularly information about vacancies available in different fields, and submits periodical returns and reports to the Director of Manpower, Employment and Training, Ahmadabad and to the Director General of Employment and Training, Government of India, New Delhi.

सत्यमेव जयते

The Employment Market Information Unit—It collects information from the employers of public and private sectors in the prescribed forms and carries out employment surveys as directed by the State and the Central Governments.

The Vocational Guidance Section—It gives vocational guidance and counsel to the students, job seekers, and their parents, etc., and helps them in the choice of their careers. It collects the data regarding training facilities available in the district and arranges talks on careers in the schools and in other educational institutions. It also brings out pamphlets, brochures, etc., for the knowledge of the applicants institutions.

The following figures show the working of the exchange.



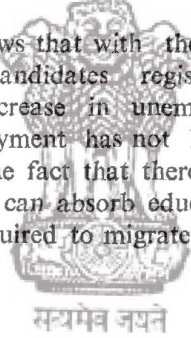
Working of the Employment Exchange

Year 1		Number of candidates registered 2	Candidates recommended for employment 3	Candidates placed in employment 4	Number of live registered of the end of period 5
1960	..	2,739	2,294	430	1,819
1965	..	3,499	3,500	492	1,977
1970	..	5,167	7,455	1,125	4,010
1973	..	5,270	9,141	720	5,221

Source :

Office of the District Employment Exchange, Banaskantha District, Palanpur.

The statement shows that with the expansion in educational facilities, the number of candidates registered as also those on the live register showing increase in unemployment have increased *pari passu*. That employment has not kept pace with the number of registrants is due to the fact that there is no industrial development in the district which can absorb educated unemployed persons. They are, therefore, required to migrate to other centres in search of gainful employment.



NATIONAL PLANNING

The National Planning Committee of the Indian National Congress created an atmosphere for planned development in the country after Independence. The Constitution of India had enunciated certain Directive Principles for the establishment of a Welfare State, in the country. A central body called Planning Commission with the Prime Minister as Chairman was constituted in 1950. It included economists, scientists and other technocrats. Thereafter, the planning era commenced in 1951. It aimed at achieving a balanced growth of the economy and also assured an improvement in the standards of living of the people. A specific aim was to increase the *per capita* income by 1977-78, *i. e.*, roughly within the span of a generation. The plans opened up new avenues of gainful employment for the masses and helped ensure a richer and fuller life to the people by developing agriculture, irrigation, industry, transport, social services including education medical and health services and labour welfare. When



the First Five Year Plan was formulated our economy was under heavy pressure due to great strains during Second World War and large influx of refugees from Pakistan and the Kashmir problem. The Second Five Year Plan sought to carry this process further. It aimed at accelerating the rate of growth and initiating a strategy to bring about the necessary structural changes in the economy. While agriculture continued to get high priority, there was due emphasis on industrialisation. Socialistic pattern of society was explicitly accepted as the goal of the country's programme for socio-economic development. This meant that the pattern of development and the structure of socio-economic relations would be so planned that they result not only in appreciable increases in national incomes and employment but also in greater equality of income and wealth. The benefits of economic development must accrue more to the relatively less privileged classes of society, and that there should be a progressive reduction of the concentration of incomes, wealth and economic power. The Third and the subsequent Plans including the Fourth Plan defined the immediate task as laying down of the foundation of a self-reliant economic growth. Though development of agriculture and irrigation, continued to get first priority, industries too were not neglected. It should, however, be noted here that the external aggressions in 1962 and 1965 gave a powerful set-back to the economic development because a part of the development expenditure was diverted to strengthening of defence of the country. Gujarat did not exist as a separate State when the First Five Year Plan was launched. The Bombay State was bifurcated in 1960. Thus Gujarat as a separate State came into existence from May, 1960. Despite various strains and stresses in the initial stages, the Second Plan of Gujarat was completed with considerable success. The Third Five Year Plan was the first co-ordinated effort for the development of all the areas of Gujarat. The implementation of the Third Plan also proved to be quite satisfactory.

Perspective Planning

During the President's rule in Gujarat during 1971-72, a Ten-Year Perspective Plan of Gujarat State (1974-84), which veritably coincided with the Fifth and Sixth Plans was prepared. Such a long-term perspective planning is indispensable for achieving significant success in the implementation of projects under the plans. The basic objectives of such a long term Planning are : (1) full employment of the available manpower and exploitation of natural resources, (2) maximum production in vital sectors of agriculture and industry,



(3) equitable distribution of wealth among different strata of society, specially the weaker sections, (4) balanced development of all regions, and (5) self-reliance in agriculture and industry with maximum import substitution.

District Planning—The concept of Planning from below gained ground during the Third Five Year Plan, it was found that formulation of Plans exclusively at the State level did not give sufficient attention to the variety of conditions obtaining in the different regions of the State. The importance of district planning was thus recognised for ensuring the rational utilisation of resources, reduction of intra-regional imbalances as well as proper co-ordination and execution of development programmes.

With the establishment of Panchayati Raj from April, 1963, a part of Government authority is vested in the Panchayati Raj institutions like the district panchayat, the taluka panchayat and the village/nagar panchayat.

To help the District Panchayats in the matter of timely formulation of the Plan proposals, a committee was appointed to study the problems of planning machinery at the district level both in the District Panchayat and in the subjects retained by Government and to make suitable recommendations.

Government has also appointed a District Planning Board in each of district in the State with the Panchayat President as its Chairman. Besides, the Members of Parliament and the State Legislature from the concerned districts, the District Collector and the District Development Officer are its members. The duties and functions of the District Planning Board are : (1) to study socio-economic situation of the district continuously, (2) to render advice in the formulation of Five Year Plans, (3) to formulate well-planned and realistic programmes and schemes for ensuring balanced development in different spheres, (4) to give advice to augment financial resources of all the three tiers of Panchayats, (5) to suggest model schemes so as to ensure better planning and implementation of the local schemes from Panchayat's own funds, and (6) to undertake regular and effective review and evaluation of all the district level schemes and programmes.



Under overall all-India Plans, the States and district plans are thus formulated keeping in view the concept of the Welfare State. These Plans are implemented through the district administrative machinery which has been geared and greatly strengthened to meet the variegated tasks of development. For each schemes of development a fixed target is set-out and the estimates of expenditure together with means of implementing the same, are put into shape to achieve the objectives.

Against this background, following Statement IX.14 shows sectoral expenditure from 1956-57 to 1972-73 incurred for socio-economic development of the Banaskantha district.

STATEMENT IX.14

Expenditure under the Plans upto 31st March, 1973

Sl. No.	Name of the Head	Ind. Plan	IIIrd Plan	1-4-66 to 31-3-73
		Expenditure in Rs. (Lakh)	Expenditure in Rs. (Lakh)	Expenditure in Rs. (Lakh)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Agricultural and Allied activities	111.71	114.38	106.86
2.	Irrigation and Power	237.39	546.58	..
3.	Community Development and Rural Development including Co-operation. ..	58.99	57.71	37.37
4.	Industries and Allied activities	0.85	2.30	2.82
5.	Transport and Communications	41.03	15.89	52.02
6.	Social Services ..	46.50	74.28	28.94
	Total ..	496.47	911.14	227.99

Source :

District Development Officer, Banaskantha District, Palanpur.

On the basis of available data, it can be seen that a total of Rs. 1,636 lakhs has been spent on different sectors. Of these, as much as 54.03 per cent was incurred on irrigation and power. Agriculture and allied activities including minor irrigations, fisheries, land development, forests, animal husbandry, soil conservation, etc., came next with 20.36 per cent. Community development including co-operation accounted for 9.41 per cent of expenditure.



The period of the First Five Year Plan commenced from 1951--52. Much has been done in the State as well as in the district, under various development Plan. In the First Five Year Plan, the commission considered it necessary to include some new schemes to emphasize certain aspects of the Plan, which, in other opinion, had not received adequate attention. Among these additional schemes important are : (1) community development projects, (2) National extension service, (3) Local development works.¹

In the Second Plan, the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 496.47 lakhs. Of these, irrigation and power accounted for 47.82 per cent, followed by 22.50 per cent on agriculture and allied activities, 11.88 per cent on community development including co-operation, 9.36 per cent on social services including education, health and housing and 8.26 per cent on transport and communications in order.

In the Third Plan Rs. 911.14 lakhs were spent, where in irrigation and power accounted for as much as 70.96 per cent, followed by agriculture and allied activities 12.55 per cent, social services including education, health and housing 8.15 per cent, whereas outlay on industries 0.25 per cent only.

In the annual plans that followed upto 31st March, 1973, a total of Rs. 227.99 lakh has been spent. Among these, 46.86 per cent was spent on agriculture and allied activities, 22.82 per cent on transport and communications, 16.39 per cent on community development and 12.69 per cent on social services.

It can be said that the Five Year Plans have been instrumental in creating an urge among the people for betterment of their socio-economic conditions. The development in important sectors like agriculture, industry, transport and communications and social services like education, medical and public health and labour welfare is considerable.

During the period between the Third and the Fourth plans, we had annual plans for 1966--67, 1967--68 and 1968-69. The Fourth Five Year Plan (1969--74) has to provide the next step forward in attaining the accepted objectives of Planning. During the Fourth Plan, therefore, our aim was to increase the tempo of

1. Booklet of Banaskantha by Shri V. D. Hathi.



development, in conditions of stability. Safeguard is also introduced against fluctuation of agricultural production as well as the uncertainties of foreign aid. In brief safeguards against uncertainties, social justice and equality, development of weaker sections, social services, employment opportunities and social and general development in Panchayati Raj and co-operation.

During the year 1973-74 of the Fourth Plan, main sectorwise development programme, entrusted to Banaskantha District Panchayat is as under :

Sl. No.	Main sector of the programme	Outlay (Rs. in lakhs)	Percentage
1.	Agricultural Programme	29.890	17.95
2.	Co-operation, Community Development and Panchayats	36.839	22.12
3.	Industry and Mining	00.473	00.29
4.	Transport and Communications	51.360	30.84
5.	Social Services	42.467	25.49
6.	Welfare of Backward Classes	05.513	03.31
	Total	166.542	100.00

Following table shows the sectorwise outlays for the period of Fifth Five Year Plan of Banaskantha district:

Sl. No.	Sector / Sub-sector	Outlay in lakhs of Rs.
1.	Agricultural programme and production ..	31.500
2.	Minor Irrigation	347.590
3.	Social Conservation	44.350
4.	Animal Husbandry	19.000
5.	Dairy and Milk supply	9.000
6.	Forests	24.220
7.	Warehousing and Marketing	7.000
8.	Co-operation, Community Development and Panchayats ..	137.370
9.	Irrigation and Power	630.000
10.	Industry and Mining	12.170
11.	Road Developments	349.910
12.	Education	73.770
13.	Health	433.260
14.	Housing and Urban Development	27.890
15.	Welfare of Backward Classes	16.560
	Total	2,153.590



DISTRICT PLANNING BOARD, BANASKANTHA

In Banaskantha, a District Planning Board has been formed which consists of about 55 members. The Board has framed one steering committee of 10 members, for keen observation and guidance in planning implementation and maintenance of planning work in the District.¹

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

For the development of socio-economic life of teeming millions of India, a novel experiment, popularly known as the "Community Development Programme to be implemented by the rural folk themselves through mutual help with assistance from local leadership was inaugurated from 2nd October, 1952, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Mahatama Gandhiji. The programme aimed at securing a co-ordinated development of rural life as a whole. The programmes cover *inter alia* development of agriculture, minor irrigation, rural health and sanitation, communications including village roads, education and small scale industries, rural arts and crafts, etc.

In the beginning, three types of development blocks known as the National Extension Service, Community Development and Post-Intensive blocks were conceived which marked three different phases of development of the rural areas. The National Extension Service which was organised to expand, programmes for community projects was taken to be a preparatory period, when the area was groomed for receiving a heavy dose of development in the subsequent periods. It was felt that thereafter the development generated would be maintained.

"The National Extension Service Scheme is organised to expand the Programme for Community Development Projects. It is expected to cover about one-fourth of the country during the plan period 1951--56. The schemes is proposed to cover during the rest of the plan period 900 Development Blocks, each block consisting of 100 villages and covering a population of about 66,000 people."¹

1. District Development Officer, Banaskantha District, Palanpur.
1. Booklet of Banaskantha by Shri V. D. Hathi.



But the community development programme failed to evoke and enlist the participation of the people to the extent desired, because the local institutions as envisaged could not be developed *pari passu*. It was noticed that there was very little of enthusiasm on the part of the public. The implementation of the programme presented a picture of imposition from outside instead of coming from within the masses. Therefore, the distinction between the N.E.S. stage, intensive development stage, and the post-intensive stage was abolished from 1st April, 1958 and all the blocks under all-India programme except blocks in the community development stage, which had then not completed three years, were classified into stage I and stage II. The degree of success attained during the first stage would be evidenced by the growth and functioning of self-reliant rural communities, which was the basic objective of the programme. After completing stage I, the blocks would enter stage II and then the post-stage II of the programme.

In this district this programme was first inaugurated in Deesa taluka in January 1954. At the end of the First Five Year Plan, there were four development blocks in the district. Two blocks were opened during the Second Plan and the remaining five taluka were covered under the scheme during the Third Plan. Thus the entire district was covered at the end of the Third Plan. The position of blocks in the district as on 31st March, 1969 is as follows:

Stage I Blocks	..	5
Stage II Blocks	..	2
Post-Stage II Blocks	..	4
Total	..	11

In the Third Plan an Adivasi block at Danta was started.¹

TRIBAL BLOCKS

In order to have all-round intensive development of socially and economically backward areas, special multipurpose projects were launched during the Second Plan, all over India in selected places from April, 1957, these blocks were termed the Tribal Development

1. *Pragati-ne--Panthe-Ayojanana Adhar Varsha, Banaskantha Jillo, Gujarat Rajya, Information Department p. 41.*



Blocks. During the first stage Rs. 10 lakhs and in the second stage Rs. 5 lakhs were provided for intensive development in the tribal block areas. In addition, grants under the community development head were also made available to talukas which are covered by tribal blocks.

In this district, there is one tribal development block at Danta, which was started from 1st April, 1963 and is in stage II- since 1st April, 1970.

In the tribal blocks expenditure is incurred on such heads as project head quarters, agriculture and animal husbandry, co-operation and rural arts and crafts, social services and communications. The salient features of the tribal blocks are that the schemes are specially ment for scheduled tribes only. A large part of the financial allocations are spent on agriculture, irrigation and small scale industries.

In this tribal block the Social Welfare Organisation established following hostels:

- (1) Shree Ambaji Mata Kumar Chhatralaya.
- (2) Satali Kanya/Kumar Chhatralaya.
- (3) Hadad Vinay Sarvajanic Chhatralaya.

A Balwadi had been started at Satali for small children. One Ashram Shala was started at Machkoda village for the benefit of Adivasi students reading from 1 to 7 standards. Besides this, Adivasis are given medicines and assistance for purchase of agricultural implements and starting small-scale industries.

The position of blocks in the district and other connected details up to 31st March, 1973 inclusive of those of the tribal block are shown in the following Statement IX.15.



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STATEMENT IX.15

Sl. No.	Name of the Taluka Block	No. of villages covered	Population as per 1971 Census	Area covered	Total expenditure incurred up to 31-3-73 (Rs.)	Total contribution by the people upto 31-3-73 (Rs.)
A—Community Development Block Stage-I						
1.	Tharad	135	109,058	1358.1	10,17,309	..
2.	Radhanpur (Pre NES)	55	63,572	595.7	..	..
3.	Santalpur	76	55,652	1351.6	6,25,364.11	..
4.	Dhanera	131	108,432	1190.2	5,46,259	..
5.	Vadgam	110	112,630	564.6	9,53,461.21	1,79,476
	Total	507	449,344	5058.22	31,42,393.32	1,79,47
B—Community Development Block Stage-I Post-Stage						
1.	Palanpur	178	228,944	1471.1	97,240	..
2.	Deesa	147	195,443	1481.0	24,00,391	50,000
3.	Kankrej	105	116,468	821.6	6,46,365	2,21,677
	Total	430	5,40,855	3773.7	31,43,996	2,71,677
C—Community Development Block Stage-II						
1.	Danta	63	70,743	857.2	23,840.00	..
2.	Vav	121	97,262	1701.2	23,553.99	..
3.	Deodar	124	107,179	1012.0	47,252.27	..
	Total	308	2,75,184	3570.4	94,645.27	..
D—Tribal Development Block Stage-II						
1.	Danta	124	27,475	857.2	42,709	1,41,78
	Total	124	27,475	857.2	42,709	1,41,78
	Grand Total	1,369	12,92,558	13,258.35	64,23,743.59	4,65,331

Source :

District Development Officer, Banaskantha District, Palanpur.

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It will be seen that the 11 talukas have been covered by the community development programme. The total expenditure incurred on these blocks upto 31st March, 1973 was Rs. 64,23,743 and people's contribution was Rs. 4,65,331.

The details about physical achievements upto 31st March, 1973, for the schemes under taken under the programme are given in Statement IX.16 appended herewith. It will help to illustrate the benefits accrued to the people as result of the implementation of the community development programme.

STATEMENT IX.16
Physical Achievement of Community Development Blocks up to
31st March, 1973 (Since Inauguration)

Sl. No.	Name of Item	Unit	Achievement
1	2	3	4
1. Agriculture			
(a)	Distribution of improved seeds	(Qtls.)	36,585
(b)	Distribution of fertilisers	„	2,20,570
(c)	Distribution of improved implements	No.	967
(d)	Agriculture demonstrations	„	1,707
2. Animal Husbandry			
(a)	Improved breed of animals supplied	No.	..
(b)	Improved breed of birds supplied	„	200
(c)	Animals artificially inseminated	„	..
(d)	Animals castrated	„	185
3. Minor Irrigation			
(a)	Kutchha wells constructed, repairs or renovated	No.	462
(b)	Pucca wells constructed, repairs or renovated	„	505
(c)	Tank constructed, repairs or renovated	„	..
(b)	Tubwells and pump sets installed (including electric Motor)	„	1,402
(e)	Others	„	..
(f)	Net additional area likely to be irrigated	..(Hectares)	8,424
4. Health and Rural Sanitations			
(a)	Primary health centres (Functioning)	No.	12

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STATEMENT IX.16—concl'd.

Sl. No. 1	Name of Item 2	Unit 3	Achievement 4
(b)	Rural latrine constructed	No.	133
(c)	Drinking water wells constructed or renovated	..	22
(d)	Disinfections of drinking water wells	..	..
(e)	Hand pump installed	..	2
5. Social Education			
(a)	Literacy centres started	No.	46
(b)	Adult made literate	..	308
(c)	Reading rooms and libraries started	..	..
(d)	Youth clubs started	..	..
(e)	Farmer's Unions started	..	..
6. Women's Programme			
(a)	Mahila Samiti or Mandal started	No.	..
(b)	Membership	..	..
7. Communications			
(a)	Kutchha roads constructed or improved	(Km.)	180
(b)	Culverts constructed or repaired	No.	13
8. Co-operations			
(a) Co-operative Societies			
(1)	Started	..	14
(2)	Functioning	..	1,040
(b) Membership			
(1)	New members in the year	No.	975
(2)	Total members	..	97,339
9. General			
(a)	Village Panchayats established	No.	..
(b)	No. of Villages covered	..	..
(c)	Vikas Mandal or Village Councils started	..	..

Source : District Development Officer, Banaskantha District, Palanpur.



TRENDS OF DEVELOPMENT

The present Banaskantha district comprised Princely States and estates of Palanpur, Radhanpur, Vav, Thard, Deodar, Danta, etc. Of these, Palanpur and Radhanpur were first class States whereas others were small principalities. Therefore, schemes calculated to raise living standards of the masses could not be undertaken in these Princely pockets.

Before Independence, the State of Palanpur, as a part of post-war reconstruction programme took measures for the development of agriculture and industry in the State. The Palanpur Agricultural Rights and Succession Act, 1945 was passed with a view to revise land tenure system in the State. This measure was greatly acclaimed by the cultivators. The Act was first applied to the Gadhi Mahal and later on extended to other parts of the State. Several irrigation schemes were taken up for execution. In order to co-ordinate the irrigation schemes, an electricity survey was carried out. In this survey, the method by which electrical energy could be made available also for irrigation purpose was suggested. As regards the industrial development in the State, steps were taken to move the Government of India to fix Palanpur as a centre for textile mill and a factory for the manufacture of vegetable *ghee*. The Government of India approved both the schemes. For determining the mineral resources in the State the services of an Italian Geologist were requisitioned. His report held out prospects for good quality of lime-stone suitable for cement manufacturing. The handloom industry at Kanodar was encouraged by the State by grant of remission and exemptions in custom duties and arrangements were made by the State with the Government of India to ensure adequate supply of yarn to the industry. A wool ginning and pressing factory was established at Deesa. As a part of "Grow More Food" campaign, cultivation of potatoes was encouraged. The perfumery and gold and silver thread embroidery work at Palanpur were prosperous industries. The State also encouraged the *ghee* industry and to maintain its quality "Agmark" system was adopted.

Other States and Estates, having limited financial resources no such reconstruction schemes were mooted in their territories.



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After Independence, a number of steps have been taken to raise the standard of living of the masses by introducing Planning in the country.

In the Banaskantha district, rain-fall is both irregular and inadequate and on an average, every fifth year turns out to be year of famine and scarcity. It was found that Deodar, Tharad, Kankrej, Vav and Santalpur talukas were worst affected. For meeting the irrigational needs of the district, a dam has been built across the Banas river near Dantiwada. It will help to irrigate 28,340 hectares. Tubewells have also been augmented. As regards agricultural production, there is vast scope for increase in output per acre especially in millet, *jowar*, pulses and castor seeds. The district is deficient in forests which are found in Danta taluka and to some extent in the Palanpur taluka. The Little Rann of Kachchh is advancing reducing the soil of the district unsuitable for cultivation. In order to arrest the advance of the Rann, it is very necessary that afforestation schemes are implemented soon. The prospects for plantation of sandalwood trees and lac manufacture have increased.

The district can take pride in its Kankrej type of bulls. It is one of the finest breed in the State. Therefore, dairy farming industry has been developed as a result of which Banas Dairy, a co-operative venture, has come up in the district. It manufactures milk powder, *ghee* and butter also besides supplying pasteurised milk to the people. The dairy farming can be still further developed by systematic efforts.

Further the availability of good quality of limestone has strengthened the prospects of establishment of a cement factory at Amir-gadh. Copper and Zinc mines have been detected near Ambaji in Danta taluka. Fisheries are being developed in the Dantiwada dam. This will be exported to Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta. There are prospects of establishing industries based on by-products of salt. The district is industrially very backward and industries are concentrated in Palanpur and Deesa talukas. There are no large scale industries in the district. The industries which are working at Palanpur are small and medium scale. In order to expand the industrial base, there are possibilities of establishing industries based on the following materials (1) Polythelene bags, (2) Paints and varnishes, (3) Insecticides and formulations products, (4) Anodized aluminium, cycle tyre and tubes, survey instruments, cardboards and corrugated boxes, imitation

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aluminium jewellery, mechanical toys, mechanical appliances, fertilisers, plastic goods, aluminium utensils, micro-cellular soleing, automobile clutch plates, power distribution and special purpose transformers, diamond tools, chrome leather, agricultural implements, automobile and spare parts, electrical accessories, condensers, woodens furniture and electrical wooden fittings, table and dairy salt, drawing instruments, malted milk powder and miscellaneous products, educational toys, chalksticks from gypsums, ply wood, fish canning, fruit processing unit, drying of fruits and vegetables, crockery, tiles, diamond processing, leather and leather goods, cement pipe, septic tank, Mangalore tiles, gypsum board, cement, etc.

In respect of banking, trade and commerce, the district is also not very developed. There are 32 branches of commercial banks which now provide financial assistance to agriculture, industries and trade and commerce. The number of co-operative societies in 1972-73 were 581,040. They meet the requirements of agriculturists for raising the farm output. Before Independence, the district was served by the Ahmadabad-Palanpur-Delhi and the Palanpur-Deesa railway lines. After 1947, two more rail lines have been laid, viz., Deesa-Kandla and Bhildi-Raniwada. The hinterland of the district has thus been greatly increased. Still, however, Kankrej, Tharad, Vav and Danta talukas are without any railway lines. If, however, railways between Radhanpur and Harij, Sihori to Kakosi or Vagdod in Patan taluka of the Mahesana district, are constructed the economic development of Banaskantha district can get further fillip and the people's mobility would be increased. As a result of implementation of Five Year Plans, network of roads is proposed to be built in the district under the 20-Year Road Development Plan. The aggregate length of roads in the district at present is 2,893 km. On completion of the Road Plan, the length would be raised to 4,192 km., in 1981. The following Statement IX. 17 indicates the trends of development as achieved in the course of planning.

The Economic Times has recently published a series of articles on the development in Gujarat. The observations made in the article in regard to Banaskantha district are generalised below.

The Banaskantha district ranks 14th, in the density of population in the State. It ranks 16th, in respect of literacy, 6th in respect of workers to population, 15th in respect of urban popula-



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tion and protected water *per capita* and length of roads per 1000 sq., km., percentage of villages electrified, percentage of villages having post offices and percentage of villages having dispensaries. It ranks 10th among number of primary schools per inhabited villages and 13th in respect of number of road connections per inhabited village. Aggregate rank enjoyed by the district is 15th among 19 districts of Gujarat.¹

STATEMENT IX.17

Selected Indicators of Economic Development in the district till 1972-73

Sl. No.	Category	Year	Hectares	Year	Hectares
1.	Area under cultivation	1950-51	10,92,300	1969-70	12,25,700
2.	Area under foodgrains	1952-53	5,72,700	1972-73	6,13,700
3.	Area under cash crops	1950-51	400	1972-73	12,300
4.	Area under irrigation	1951-52	67,100	1969-70	1,18,000
5.	Area under forests	1950-51	1,22,100	1969-70	1,33,000
6.	Out turn of foodgrains	1952-53	1,47,400	1972-73	3,24,400
7.	Out turn of cash crops	1950-51	200 Tonnes	1972-73	10,000 Tonnes
8.	Village electrified	1951	1	1974	144
9.	Factories		..	1972	217
10.	Credit Societies	1960-61	735	1972	1,040
11.	Banks (Commercial)	1951	1	1972	32
12.	Roads	1974	40 (Km.)	1947	2,983 (km.)
13.	State Transport				
	(a) Routes	1954	2	1970	270
	(b) Route Kilometres	1954	33	1974	17,956
14.	(a) Primary Schools	1951	165(No.)	1972	1,353
	(b) Secondary Schools	1951	5 „	1973	54
	(c) Colleges	{ 1964	1 „	1972	1
		{ 1969	1 „	1973	1
15.	(a) Students in Primary Schools	1951	16,049	1972	1,14,182
	(b) Students in Secondary Schools	1951	1,058	1973	12,267
	(c) Students in Colleges	{ 1964	N.A.	1972-73	523
		{ 1969	N.A.	1973-74	390

1. *Economic Times*, Article on Development in Gujarat.



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CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

INTRODUCTORY

The present elaborate administrative structure of the district is the product of historical evolution. It passed through different stages of historical development. Before integration of States (1949) Banaskantha District was not existing as one administrative unit. The territory now forming the Banaskantha District was first under the rule of different Rajput Dynasties of Anhilwad (746-1297). Thereafter, it came under the rule of the early Khilji and Tughluq Shahi dynasties of Delhi (1297-1403), and the Sultans of Ahmadabad (1403-1573). It passed to the Mughal emperors (1573-1757), and then to Marathas (1757-1819) and lastly to the British¹.

The Princely States which were under the direct control of British Superintendency, during British rule included States of Palanpur, Radhanpur, Tharad, Vav, Danta, Deodar, Varahi, Tervada, Suigam, Santalpur, Kankrej, Bhabher, Chadchata and Merwada.

At first, the relations of the British Government with these States or Estates were purely political. The Superintendent, later on Political Agent, held, the position of universal arbitrator. The sub-ordinate Officers were called "Agents" or Karkuns in small States. They were responsible for both of collecting information and keeping order. These Karkuns were gradually promoted to Thandars or the Commandants to the posts. They were invested with certain fixed powers in civil and criminal matters. The Headquarters of Superintendency latter on the Agency, was at Palanpur. The maintenance of order and suppression of crimes in small States were under the Political Superintendent. His power was vested in 6 Police and Magistrate Officers, styled as Thandars. They were stationed at Tharad, Vav, Deodar, Santalpur, Varahi and Kankrej.

The Chiefs of Palanpur and Radhanpur were invested with full criminal and civil powers and in matters of revenue, they were almost independent, but the sanction of the Political Agent was

1. *Imperial Gazetteer of India* : Provincial Series Bombay Presidency, Vol. II, p. 418.



required for the trial of British subjects for capital offences. Over them, the Political Agent exercised only a general supervision, but in the remaining petty States, the Thandars were invested with powers to try second class criminal cases and to decide civil suits upto Rs. 500 in value.¹ The details of States and Estates with their ranks and powers are appended at the end of the Chapter.

The system of jurisdiction and administration of justice in the Thana circle was introduced by Government merely because the estates were so small and the authority of the proprietors so weak that otherwise no justice at all could be provided or obtained; but the Government desired to interfere as little as possible with the rights of proprietors and to introduce the most economical and simple system that was possible with the Thandars and the Assistants to the Political Agent, a fairly good scheme of administration was provided.²

Functions of the Government were mostly limited to the management of the land and preservation of law and order. The land revenue and Police Departments were important departments in most of these States. The machinery of administration, however, differed from one State and Estate to another, according to their size, powers of the ruler, and financial resources of the State. The form of the Government was monarchical.

The administration of the States and Estates was carried on by Diwan or Karbhari, under the ruler's direction who was the supreme and final authority in the State. The various departments were responsible to the Diwan or Karbhari. These departments of the State varied and extended according to their material resources and the character of the administration of the States. Normally, revenue, police, judiciary, education, agriculture and public works departments were the components of the administrative structure.

ADMINISTRATION AFTER INDEPENDENCE

In 1949, when the States were merged and new district was constituted, the former Bombay Government faced a difficult task of placing the administrative machinery of the State on a uniform basis.

1. *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Vol. XIX, pp. 351-353.

2. Based on information received from the Collector, Banaskantha District.



After Independence, the administrative structure was radically changed to meet and fulfil aims and objectives of the free democratic Government. The administrative structure was changed both in content, size and spirit. Instead of emphasizing on the functions of revenue collection and law and order, the State became a Welfare State. In October, 1952, the administration was made development oriented by the introduction of the Community Development Programme. In order to secure greater participation of the people in implementation of the development programmes, the Panchayati Raj with three tiers was introduced with effect from 1st April, 1963, under the Gujarat Panchayats Act, (1961).

The evolution of the administrative machinery in the present form may be considered into three distinct phases. During the first phase, the entire structure of administration was reorganised on the basis of a district, which became a principal unit of administration with intermediate functionaries at taluka and village levels. During the second phase, attempts were made to give a new form to the public administration in order to implement the ideals of a Welfare State by making the administrative machinery development oriented and by increasing the association of the people in development activities. During the final phase, the administrative set-up was democratised to suit the changing needs of the time in tune with the socialistic pattern of society. These phases are dealt with below.

सत्यमेव जयते

With the district as the principal unit of administration, the Collector became the key functionary and the pivot of administration, instead of the principal district officer responsible for the collection of land revenue and maintenance of law and order. He had manifold functions to perform. In the administration of land revenue, he was concerned not only with the maintenance of land records, collection of land revenue and administering the land revenue laws but also with the implementation of land reforms which were introduced immediately after the merger to do away with a medley of special land tenures, levies and perquisites which hampered agricultural production. As the judiciary was separated from the executive, his judicial powers were mainly Magisterial and restricted to the maintenance of law and order in the district. On the development side, he co-ordinated the activities of various other departments such as Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Co-operation, Social Welfare, etc., which were then created at the district and lower levels.



The Second phase began with the increasing association of the public with the welfare activities undertaken by the State under the Community Development Programme in 1952. The Collector was also the Chairman of the District Development Board, which looked after development work in rural areas, particularly in the field of agriculture, irrigation, community development, co-operation, social education, panchayats, etc. A further step in the direction of popular association and Local self-Government was taken by the establishment of panchayats in villages or groups of villages with a view to associating the people in the village administration. They were thus enabled to take active interest in works of public welfare and utility, and accelerate the pace of development activities for the amelioration of the conditions of the village people. The Panchayats were also invested with powers to try petty criminal offences and certain civil disputes.

THE PANCHAYATI RAJ

The third phase in the evolution of the administrative structure was reached when the Gujarat Panchayats Act of 1961 was enforced with effect from 1st April 1963, with a view to decentralising the entire administrative machinery from the district to the village level. The main objective of the Panchayati Raj is to enable the people of each area to achieve intensive and continuous development of the entire population. It comprehends both the democratic institutions and the extension services through which the development programmes are executed. For this purpose, the integrity of the structure of technical and administrative services need to be fully ensured. This revolutionary change in the administrative set-up led to the bifurcation of functions and responsibilities of the collector, who now retains certain powers in respect of land revenue administration, maintenance of law and order, elections, civil supply and other subjects not transferred to the Panchayati Raj institutions. All the development activities, which were formerly within his charge as well as some of the functions under the Land Revenue Laws have been transferred to the Panchayati Raj bodies constituted under the Gujarat Panchayats Act.

Under this set-up, there are three tiers, namely the District Panchayat, Taluka Panchayat and Gram or Nagar Panchayat. The principal Executive Officer of the District Panchayat is the District



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Development Officer, mainly drawn from the Indian Administrative Service. The Taluka Development Officer is likewise the principal officer at the Taluka Panchayat level and the Secretary, Gram Panchayat, is at the village level.

ROLE OF THE COLLECTOR

Formerly, the Collector used to be the pivot of the district administration. He was recognised as the local agent of Government in the district for all purposes. He was the link between the people and the Government. Besides supervising the collection of land revenue, the duties of collection of excise and other special taxes and the stamp revenue also devolved on him (Collector) as the executive head of the district. Before the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961, came into force in April, 1963, he co-ordinated the work of different departments and ensured implementation of the development schemes in the district. But after the introduction of the Panchayati Raj, the collection of land revenue has been entrusted to the Village Panchayats. The Collector still remains responsible for implementation of the land reforms laws and the collection of fees, dues, etc., recoverable as arrears of land revenue under various Acts, such as the Bombay Irrigation Act, (1879), the Bombay Entertainment Duty Act, (1923), the Bombay Electricity Duty Act, (1958) and the Gujarat Education Cess Act, (1962). There are also other Acts, which provide for recoveries of other Government dues as arrears of land revenue. Under the Bombay Prohibition Act, (1949), the Collector is empowered to issue permits for liquor and drugs to addicts and recover assessment fees from shops permitted to sell liquor and drugs. He is also the Chairman of the Prohibition Committee of the district. Over and above these major functions, the Collector is entrusted with the work of watching the proper implementation of the district level plan schemes retained with the State after introduction of the Panchayati Raj.

Apart from the Civil functions, the Collector has to perform duties as the District Magistrate under Section 17 (1) of the Bombay Police Act, (XXII of 1951). The District Superintendent of Police and the police force of the district are under the control of the police, the Collector as District Magistrate has extensive powers under the Criminal Procedure Code and for proper administration of jails and sub-jails. In his capacity as District Magistrate, he is



concerned with the issue of licences and permits under the Indian Arms Act (1959), the Petroleum Act, (1934), the Explosives Act, (1884) and the Poisons Act (1919). Under the Factories Act, 1948, the District Magistrate is an Inspector for his district, in which, capacity, he has powers of inspection and supervision of factories, magazines, etc.

Prior to 1962, the District Treasury was under the overall charge of the Collector to whom the District Treasury Officer was subordinate. He was responsible for all the cash, stamps etc., received in the Treasury as also for the proper maintenance of accounts. The sub-treasury establishment at the taluka headquarters formed part of the revenue establishments in the district, but from the 1st, April, 1962, the sub-treasury establishment was separated from the Revenue Administration and placed under the administrative control of the Director of Accounts and Treasuries working under the Finance Department. The Collector, however, continues to exercise general powers and functions as the head of the district administration. The Treasury is thus under the direct control of the Finance Department, though the Collector exercises supervision over it as required under the Bombay Treasury Rules.

Among the quasi-judicial functions of the Collector, over and above, the hearing of appeals from the Prant Officers under the Land Revenue Code and various other laws, the following may be mentioned : (1) revisional powers under section 23 of the Mamlatdars Courts Act, which are delegated to an Assistant or Deputy Collector: (2) functions which the Collectors perform in connection with the execution of Civil Court decrees, (3) proceedings and awards under section 11 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894: (4) cases under the Bombay Government Premises (Eviction) Act and (5) powers exercised as District Magistrate under the Preventive Detention Act, when it was in force.

Besides the land revenue, the land reforms and magisterial work, the Collector is in-charge of various important duties connected with civil supplies, small savings., land acquisition, census, elections to the State Legislature and Parliament, the District Panchayat, etc. As a District Registrar, he controls work of registration of documents within the district, supervises the work of sub-Registrars at the taluka level and ensures proper performance of their duties as per the Indian Registration Act, (1908). Under the



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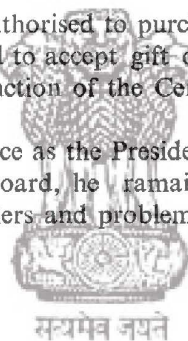
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Famine Relief Code, 1951, the Collector is required to keep himself at all times informed about the agricultural conditions within the district, and to organise relief measures and create as far as possible or permanent Famine Relief Fund on a charitable basis for the relief of the needy persons. With a view to accelerating the tempo of development of industries in the district and achieving more effective co-ordination in providing infrastructure facilities to industries, Government has designated Collector as ex-officio Deputy Commissioner of Industries and delegated to him certain powers for allotment of factory sheds and open plots in the Government industrial estates, formulation of the district master plans and co-ordination of activities of various heads of offices and departments. Even after the introduction of the Panchayati Raj the Collector has to carry out the Jamabandhi audits of Taluka Panchayats and Villages.

The Collector is authorised to purchase or take on lease only Protected monuments and to accept gift or bequest for any protected monuments with the sanction of the Central Government.

By virtue of his office as the President of the District Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board, he remains in general contact with army authorities, ex-soldiers and problems of their rehabilitation and welfare.

Collector's Office



The two main branches in the Collectors Office are (i) Revenue and (ii) Supply, each of which is under an Assistant/Deputy Collector. The Assistant/Deputy Collector in charge of revenue is also Resident Assistant/Deputy Collector, The Deputy Collector looking after the supply branch is designated the District Supply Officer.

For the purpose of smooth and efficient administration, the district is divided into three sub-divisions, viz., (a) Palanpur Sub-division comprising Palanpur, Danta, Vadgam Deesa and Dhanera; (b) Radhanpur Sub-division comprising Radhanpur, Deodar, Kankerj and Santalpur, and (c) Tharad Sub-division comprising Tharad and Vav talukas. All these sub-divisions are headed by 4 Deputy Collectors in charge of 4 sub-divisions having their headquarters at Palanpur, Deesa, Tharad and Radhanpur. The talukas/mahals are placed under the Mamlatdars/Mahalkaris who work under Deputy Collector of the respective sub-divisions.



The Deputy Collector is also a Sub-Divisional Magistrate for his sub-division. After the separation of judiciary from the executive, he is not empowered to try criminal cases except certain proceeding under the Criminal Procedure Code. The Mamlatdar/Mahalkari is the head of the revenue administration at the taluka/mahal level. By virtue of his office, he is a Taluka Magistrate and also a Superintendent of the Taluka Sub-Jail and the Assistant Custodian of the Evacuee (Administration of Property) Act, 1949.

Judiciary

Another important department at the district level is the Judicial Department headed by the District and Sessions Judge, who exercises jurisdiction in matters of Civil, Criminal and Appellate. The Bombay Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions Act, 1953, and the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1898 classify the Magistrates into two categories, viz., the Judicial Magistrates and the Executive Magistrates. The (new) Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 came into force since 1st April, 1974.

In this District every Judicial Officer is exercising both the powers, viz., Civil and Criminal. The Sessions Judge of the District is also exercising the powers of District Judge under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

All the Judicial Magistrates are First Class Magistrates and subordinate to the Chief Judicial Magistrate under the general control of the Sessions Judge as per New Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 while Executive Magistrates are divided into the District Magistrate, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, and Taluka Magistrates. All the Taluka Sub-Divisional Magistrates are subordinate to the District Magistrate and Taluka Magistrates to Sub-Divisional Magistrates concerned subject to the general control of the District Magistrate.

The present Judicial set-up of the District comprises of—

1. District and Sessions Judge,
2. The Chief Judicial Magistrate-cum-Civil Judge (Senior Division), and



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3. Five Judicial Magistrates First Class-cum-Civil Judge
(Junior Division).

STATE AND DISTRICT LEVEL OFFICES

The general pattern of administration has been completely transformed after Independence. A number of new departments, which did not exist in the past, have been brought into being to fulfil the objectives of a Welfare State. Besides Revenue, Judiciary and Police, which were the principal departments in the States, the Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Co-operation, Rural Development, Panchayats, Public Works, Social Welfare and Education, are now functioning with enlarged powers and resources under the District Panchayat, having their functionaries at various levels of administration—

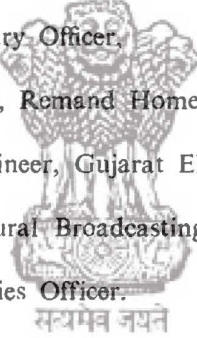
The following is the list of officers functioning at the State/
District level:

DISTRICT LEVEL OFFICERS

1. Collector and District Magistrate,
2. District Superintendent of Police,
3. Civil Surgeon,
4. Executive Engineer, Roads and Buildings,
5. District Education Officer,
6. Assistant Director of Information,
7. Divisional Forest Officer, Dantiwada River Valley Project,
8. Divisional Forest Officer,
9. Executive Engineer, Dantiwada Canal Division, Deesa,
10. Superintendent, Prohibition and Excise,
11. District Inspector of Land Records,



12. Sales-Tax Officer,
13. District Employment Officer,
14. District Industries Officer,
15. Assistant Examiner, Local-Fund Account,
16. Superintendent, Reception Centre,
17. District Commandant, Home Guards.
18. Government Labour Officer,
19. Divisional Soil Conservation Officer,
20. District Treasury Officer,
21. Superintendent, Remand Home,
22. Executive Engineer, Gujarat Electricity Board,
23. Supervisor, Rural Broadcasting, and
24. District Fisheries Officer.



All these offices, except one mentioned at 9 above are located at Palanpur.

OFFICES UNDER DISTRICT PANCHAYAT

After the commencement of Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 in the district and with the transfer of many departmental schemes, a number of district level functionaries has been transferred to the District Panchayat, these Officers are under the administrative control of their own heads of departments at the State level. In the Panchayati Raj, District Development Officer is appointed from the cadre of the Indian Administrative Service. The executive power of the District Panchayat for carrying out the provisions of the Act, vests in him. Subject to the orders of the President of the District Panchayat, he exercises all the powers as the Chief Executive Officer in regard to the administration and



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execution of development programmes, the details of which will be found in Chapter XIV—Local Self-Government.

The following is the list of officers functioning under District Panchayat :

1. District Development Officer,
2. Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies,
3. District Health Officer,
4. District Animal Husbandry Officer,
5. District Statistical Officer,
6. Unit Officer, National Malaria Eradication Programme,
7. Executive Engineer, Public Health Division, Radhanpur,
8. Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply Division, and
9. Assistant Commissioner of Sales-Tax.

All these offices, except one mentioned at 7 above are located at Palanpur.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

In addition to State Offices, there are several offices of Central Government located at Palanpur. These are listed below :

1. Superintendent, Post-Offices,
2. Income-Tax Officer, and
3. Superintendent, Central Excise



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DISTRICT GAZETTEER : BANASKANTHA

APPENDIX I

Jurisdiction and Powers of the States* (During British Rule)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Class of the State	Salutes	Powers	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Civil Jurisdiction</i>					
1.	Palanpur	First Class	13 guns	To any extent.	The Chief was entitled to a salute of 13 guns, and had power to try for all offences and any persons, except British subjects, whose cases required the sanction of the Political Agent. The family held a patent or <i>sanad</i> guaranteeing any legitimate succession according to Muhammadan law, and followed the rule of primogeniture in point of succession.
2.	Radhanpur	First Class	11 guns	The Nawab was entitled to a salute of 11 guns and had power to try for all offences and any persons, except British subjects, whose cases required the sanction of the Political Agent. The family held a <i>sanad</i> authorizing any legitimate succession according to primogeniture in point of succession.	
3.	Danta	2nd Class		The State had a dynastic salute of nine guns. The accession to the Gadi is governed by the rule of primogeniture.	
<i>Civil Suits—Up to Rs. 20,000</i>					
<i>Criminal—All powers except that a sentence of death required the confirmation of the Political Agent and the State could not try a British subject without the permission of the Political Agent.</i>					
4.	Tharad	4th Class	Nil	The Chief of Tharad had power in criminal cases to award three and two years' imprisonment and to fine unto Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 2,000 respectively. In civil suits they exercise Juris-	

* (1) The Palanpur Agency Directory, Vol. IV (1919) pp. 102-110.
 (2) *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Provincial Series, Bombay Presidency, Vol. II, pp. 417-418.

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APPENDIX I—Contd.

Sl. No. 1	Name of the State 2	Class of the State 3	Salutes 4	Powers 5	Remarks 6
				diction upto a value of Rs. 10,000 without appeal. The Thakor of Tharad had the powers of the first class Magistrate and Residuary Jurisdiction in Tharad State vested in the Political Supdt., whose court was the court of appeal from that of the Thakor.	
5.	Merwada	4th Class	Nil	<i>Criminal</i> —Three years' rigorous imprisonment and fine to the extent of Rs. 5,000. <i>Civil Suits</i> —Upto Rs. 10,000.	
6.	Vav	5th Class	Nil	The Chief had powers in criminal matter under inflicting sentences upto two years' rigorous imprisonment and fine to the extent of Rs. 2,000 and in civil matter heard the civil suits upto Rs. 5,000.	
7.	Santalpur Varahi.	-do-	-do-	The Chief had powers of second class Magistrate. He had powers to sentence upto 2 years, and to inflict fine upto Rs. 2,000 in criminal matters. And heard civil suits to the value of Rs. 5,000.	
8.	Deodar	6th Class	-do-	The Chief had powers in criminal matters to inflict three months' rigorous imprisonment and fine to the extent of Rs. 200. In civil matter he heard the suits upto Rs. 500.	
9.	Thara	Not classified	Nil	The Judicial Kamdar, Thara, exercised the powers on behalf of the Thara Talukadars. These powers had been raised to that of a second class Magistrate in criminal matters and to the hearing of civil suits upto Rs. 500 (<i>vide</i> govt. Resolution Political Department No. 2117 of 6th April, 1914.)	
10.	Terwada	Not classified	Nil	<i>Criminal Powers</i> —Third Class Magistrate. <i>Civil Suits</i> —Upto Rs. 250.	
11.	Suigam	-do-	-do-	<i>Criminal</i> —Third Class Magistrate. <i>Civil Suits</i> —Upto Rs. 250.	It was formerly under the Vab Thana.

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DISTRICT GAZETTEER : BANASKANTHA

APPENDIX I—Concl'd.

Sl. No. 1	Name of the State 2	Class of the State 3	Salutes 4	Powers 5	Remarks 6
12.	Kankrej	Not classified	Nil	The Aval Karkun of the Kankrej Thana was invested with the powers of a Third Class Magistrate. The Taluka was under the supervision of the Assistant Political Agent; but in criminal matters it was under the District Deputy Assistant, who was the sub-divisional Magistrate.	
13.	Chandchat	-do-	-do-	N.A.	
14.	Dcesa	-do-	-do-	N.A.	



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CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION DURING EARLY DAYS

Incidence of Land Revenue

The revenue administration in the areas of the district operated under princely regimes in the past when incidence of land revenue was high. In fact, incidence of land revenue influenced the conditions of ryots. The peasant satyagrahas in forties in the district were the outcome of heavy incidence of land taxation. In the Radhanpur State,¹ in 1935--36, when the total land revenue was Rs. 4,26,809, the per capita incidence of land revenue was Rs. 6.0 as compared to Baroda State whose land revenue amounted to Rs. 1,06,25,000 in 1938--39 and the per capita incidence to Rs. 4.7.0. However, before describing the land revenue system in full it would be interesting to refer to the old *Gazetteer of Bombay Presidency, Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikant* which presents an authentic account of the revenue administration during early days of the Palanpur Agency.

It states "EXCEPT" in the unusual case of persons holding land hereditarily *Karam Jodia*, as it is called, who have an occupancy right, or *Butta* land is almost everywhere in the hands of tenants-at-will, most of whom in State villages hold direct from the chief, and in cadet, *Bhayat*, or proprietary, *mul girasia*, villages from the cadet or proprietor. There are no small land holders that do not hold under some landlord. The cultivator has no power to make over his holding by sale or otherwise, and so long as he pays the rent, the chief, though he may do so at any time, seldom disturbs him. If forced to give up his land, the cultivator cannot claim for money spent by him in improvements, but in some cases rich crops are lightly assessed, because of the private capital spent in growing them. In the Palanpur State, when a tenant builds a well he is paid 20 s. or 24 s. (Rs. 10 or 12) by the State, who acquires thereby a proprietary right in the well, and and if the tenant gives up the land he has no claim for compensation. On the other hand, in Radhanpur, if a tenant is forced to leave his land, he is paid for any improvements he may have made. Rent-free service lands,

1. TRIVEDI A. B. (PROF.), *Post-War Gujarat*, (1949), p. 57.



pasaita, and lands granted in charity are sometimes sub-let to peasants, who pay rent to the original holders; on such lands the State receives no share of the assessment, but under the name *salami* the original holder makes the State a small yearly payment. Except for special reasons, charitable, *Dharmada*, lands are never resumed and are held hereditarily on condition of loyal conduct on the part of the grantee. Holders of service lands are liable to be turned out, if they fail in their service, and the chief may or may not continue service lands from father to son. In Radhanpur holders of service and charity lands have no power to transfer their land, unless the original grant contains a proviso to that effect. No land is liable to be sold by order of the civil courts in payment of a cultivator's private debts, and when a decree is passed against his property a special exception is made in favour of his field tools. In the districts of Deesa, Dhanera, Khimat, Dentivada, and some villages in west Dhandhar, the assessment on tobacco, pepper, and the early crops is paid in money at fixed rates on the number of ploughs.- In the rest of the district, except in some few villages in the Radhanpur State, the revenue is collected under the crop-share (*Bhagbatai*) system. The share is fixed on a rough estimate, *Dhal* or *Kaltarh* made by a state official and the village *patel*, who, according to the custom of the village and the nature of the crop, credit the State with a certain number of *mans* of produce. The State share varies from about $\frac{1}{2}$, a point it seldom reaches, to $\frac{1}{6}$. Village customs differ widely depending on various causes, among which the chief are nearness to markets, quality of soil and size of village. The ready-money *Nagdi* levies are small. In assessing crops it is not the custom to deduct the cost of production from the probable outturn. The only exception is the case of sugarcane in the Palanpur State. In the Dhandhar sub-division of the Palanpur State, the assessment is paid in four instalments in January, April, July, and October, in Deesa, Dhanera and other sub-divisions, the dates for payment of assessment are not fixed, but the collections are generally made after the *holi* festival (March-April) and up to the end of June. The practice of leasing villages to revenue contractors was never general in Palanpur. Under Colonel Keily in 1851, the number of villages leased to revenue contractors was reduced and in 1870 under Colonel Disbrowe the practice entirely ceased."

"In the Palanpur and Radhanpur states, the rents are collected by village accountants, *talatis*, under the control of revenue managers *tehsildars*, who again are subordinate to the chief's revenue ministers.



Where necessary, clerks are appointed to help the *tehsidars* to assess the crops. In other parts of the Superintendency, except in Tharad and Vav, where the chief's share of the revenue is collected by officials appointed for the purpose, the proprietors themselves realize the revenue with the help of *talatis* and managers, *Kamdars*,"¹

From the perusal of account it will be observed that in the majority of the States and Estates the land administration was feudal. It would be pertinent to explain certain terms such as *Giras* and *Mul Girasias*.

Giras

Giras was the commonest word in connection with land administration. It meant a mouthful in its derivative sense, and from time immemorial, had been used to express the landed possessions of members of one of the ruling tribes. It was a grant including the enjoyment of the produce of the land by cultivation. As each tribe of Rajputs, and Jat and Mahomedans invaded the district, its Chiefs bestowed on their relations portions of the lands won, in pursuance of a common custom. This share was named their *Kapal* or *Karam Giras* and passed to the children of their original grantees. The brave and enterprising *Girasias* acquired lands from their neighbours and added them to their possessions. When they found themselves sufficiently strong, they separated from the parent stem, and set up as independent rulers. Other less enterprising surrendered the greater portion of their lands to a neighbouring Chief in return for the protection and fell into the position of *Mul Girasias* or original sharers.

Mul Girasias were those *Girasias*, who though submitting to powerful chieftains, still retained their hold on some portions of land which were called *Wantas*. Thus in the case of Santalpur, the Waghelas, the original holders surrendered to the Jadejas but they still kept some *Giras* for themselves and were afterwards called as *Mul Girasias*.

Talukadar

When a *Girasia* had succeeded in gaining his independence, he

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha* (1880), pp. 304, 305.



became a Talukdar or a large landholder and assumed the title of Thakor or Rana. In the Agency, all the proprietors, who paid administrative charges for the up-keep of Thanas were entitled to the rank of Talukdars.

As the Talukdar rose in the social status, the landed proprietor became more anxious to leave his possessions intact to his eldest son. The custom of primogeniture prevailed in the States of Tharad and Vav, besides Palanpur and Radhanpur. In Santalpur and in the rest of the estates the custom of partition prevailed and in some estates sub-division had been carried to an extremely ruinous extent. In the Kankrej taluka, property had been greatly divided. The work of division continuously went on, to such a ridiculous extent that some estates of a single village had many shareholders. These shareholders had fallen to the level of peasants, and had to carry on hard struggle to maintain themselves and their families. The Talukadars had only a life interest in their estates and they could not alienate or change thier estates beyond thier lives except for the good of their Jagirs, and that too only with the sanction of the Political Agent. The petty Girasias, whether Mul Girasias or other class, owed their military liabilities and the administrative obligations to their immediate Chiefs who had to discharge the same obligations towards the British Raj.

Various kinds of Alienations सत्यमेव जयते

There were several kinds of alienated lands such as (1) Inami, *i. e.* granted for long or faithful services, (2) Patavat granted on conditions of rendering military or other services, (3) Devasthan for maintenance of temples and (4) Chakariat granted for services to the village or the State. These alienated lands were not supposed to be sold to other persons. However, this principle does not seem to have been rigidly observed. Various holdings or portions thier of had passed into the hands of money-lenders and others.

Revenue Collection

In the large estates, the revenue was collected by Tehsildars, who were placed in charge of sub-divisions called Talukas, Parganas or Mahals. The smaller Talukdars, assisted by petty officials or the village Baniyas personally supervised the collections.



Modes of Revenue Collections

There were various systems of revenue collections, some of which have been described in the extract taken from old Gazetteer. These are briefly reviewed below as they also prevailed after the old Gazetteer was published.

(a) Bighoti or Cash assessment per Bigha fixed according to survey measurement and classification of soil. This system was introduced in Varahi but was abandoned consequent upon the famine of V. S. 1956.

(b) Bhagbatai or Kaltar assessment in kind. The landlord's share or Vaje was ascertained by estimating either the standing crop in the field or the cut crop in the village thrashing floor called Khalawad. The latter system prevailed generally in the areas of Palanpur Agency. Under this system a rough estimate of standing crop or Dhal was made by an official in the presence of the Patel and Panch of the village. Once this estimate was made, the share of the Talukdar was ascertained and debited in the name of cultivators. There was also another system called Makhali in which under the supervision of a *Havaldar*, the crops were taken to a village Khalawad (Khalu) where the cultivators cleared the grains which were weighed and the State's share (Talukdar's) was recovered. The State's shares varied from $\frac{1}{4}$ th to $\frac{1}{8}$ th.

(c) Haliawa or plough tax. It was levied in Deesa, Dhanera and other villages. A certain cash amount was levied on pairs of bullocks possessed by the cultivators irrespective of the actual extent of land cultivated by them. In the Agency areas this tax was called Narwa or Vero which was taken in some places over and above the *Vaje* in kind and in some places only Narwa was levied. Narwa was fixed in proportion to the extent of land which was roughly measured by paces. It varied from Rs. 5 to Rs. 20/-

(d) *Udhad*—It was a system by which the cultivators had to pay a fixed amount for the enjoyment of a particular plot of land allotted to them by the Talukdar.



In addition to the State share or Raj bhag a number of other dues were also levied which were termed as Babatis or special cesses. These cesses were sometimes recovered before the Raj Hak or State's share.

The following were the principal cesses :

(i) *Havaldari*—It was a grain allowance given in quantity of about 4 lbs, per Kalsi to the village Havaldar.

(ii) *Sukhdi*—It was an allowance given to the State granary keeper.

(iii) *Kharach*—It was a sort of a levy to cover the cost of collecting the revenue.

(iv) *Jhampo*—This was a levy in kind imposed on cultivators on account of village guests (Officials.)

(v) *Kamdarni Sukhdi*—It was an allowance originally paid to the State Kamdar but subsequently was taken by the Talukdar.

(vi) *Tolat*—This was an allowance given to the man who weighed the Vaje crop.

(vii) *Dhaliano Kharach*—It was the food allowance given to the Panchs who gathered for making estimates of the standing crops.

Over and above the regular land revenue, these cesses were probably originally levied to meet the tribute which was to be paid originally to the Muslim Suba and thereafter to the Marathas. In addition to cesses, other dues were also recovered. These were :

(i) *Nazarana*—It was a tax levied on the Diwali occasion on persons who came to pay respects to the ruler.

(ii) *The Santh Hak*—It was a sort of occupancy price paid by cultivator to the ruler.

(iii) *Khichadi Hak*—It was taken in the Varahi Jagir from those who came to see the Jagirdar on the occasion of a death in the royal family.



(iv) *Vaje*—It meant a share of the crops received by the Talukdar in addition to cash assessment. It varied in different Jagirs and for different crops.

Where lands were shared by several proprietors according to custom of sub-division as was usually done in the case of almost all Girasias, it was usual for each shareholder to have some lands for personal cultivation. This land was called his Gharkhed land. Area of Gharkhed land was not uniform and no register was kept anywhere thereof. The rest of the village lands remained joint or Majmu. The income of the joint lands was shared by all the proprietors in accordance with the share each had in the estate.

The Girasias were not liable to *Veth*. In jointly held villages, the Chief was expected to give the Girasias a share in the revenue administration. There were several Kolis in Deodar taluka who enjoyed lands in *Inam* and paid nothing to the Jagirdar except *Vero* or cess. The Rajputs of Lavana in Deodar paid only *Vero* and no *Vaje*. Most of the Jagirdars took *Vaje*. The cultivators of Santalpur enjoyed the land on Butta Hak i. e. possession of hereditary rights over land as long as the State dues were regularly paid. The Chief of the Taluka generally took *Avak-Javak Dan* or import or export duty. The Singhoti Hak (cattle cess) was taken by the Chief on the sale of cattle. The excise duty on liquor, Bhang, and Ganja was also collected by the Chief. The Harsodi tax was levied in Santalpur in the form of Kories on the bullocks. Some Talukdars in Kankrej paid Jamabandi and Ghasdana to the Baroda State and the Majmudari Dasturi fees to the Majmudars. Some villages of Tharad paid Jama to Palanpur. The Gaekwad of Baroda paid to Girasias of Kankrej, *Vol.* a kind of payment apparently as an inducement for not making depredations in the neighbouring territories.

The above narration gives a clear picture of revenue systems obtaining in the areas of Palanpur Agency. In order to have a clear perspective of the revenue administration, revenue systems of major States of Palanpur and Radhanpur are now described in detail.

The Palanpur State¹

In the State, the villages were apportioned in 6 Mahals, viz., (1) Palanpur with the sub-tehsils of Roho and Jethi, (2) Vadgam,

I. FRAMROZ SORABJI MASTER, *The Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol IV, (1919).



(3) Gadh, (4) Deesa, (5) Dhanera and (6) Panthawada. Later on the State was divided into 8 mahals with separate Tehsildars. The four villages of the Gadhwada Thana in the Mahikantha Agency formed a separate tehsil. The Revenue Secretary, appointed in 1913, had under him Tehsildars in charge of each of these mahals and Talatis were appointed for revenue collection. The land revenue was collected under four systems, viz., "Vighoti," "Kaltar", "Halia", and "Bhagbatai", i.e., cash assessment, assessment by Dhanbandhi, assessment by the number of ploughs and assessment in kind, respectively. In all 273 were Vighoti villages, 173 Kaltar, 15 Halia and 50 Bhagbatai. The rate of assessment varied from Rs. 2 to Rs. 6 per Vigha in case of irrigated or Kuwetar land and 2 annas to Rs. 2 per Vigha in case of Jirayat or dry crop land. Besides the land tax there were few other minor taxes called *Veras* (cesses) such as "Khandani Vera", etc. The system of Tappadars, the last Revenue Officer in the mahal was introduced to supervise the collections made by the Talatis. Four Circle Inspectors were appointed for this work. The total area of land was 4,53,248 hectares of which 1,07,242 hectares were in possession of Bhayats and Jagirdars and 3,58,361.48 hectares were in possession of other alienees. The Survey Department in the State was opened in 1878 and 345 villages had been surveyed. The average land revenue was about Rs. 3,50,000.

According to the Annual Administration Report of the Palanpur State, the assessment was guaranteed for various periods in various cases. A Khatedar, however, could not transfer his rights in the land by will, mortgage, or exchange without the previous permission of the State, but the State would assign them by way of lease. The Khatedar and his widow were given the right of adopting a son in the absence of a lineal heir. The system of assessment in practice was mainly cash assessment¹.

The Radhanpur State.²

In this State the villages were apportioned in 5 mahals known as Radhanpur, Sami, Mujpur, Balodhan and Ved mahals and Vahivatdars were the heads of these mahals in revenue matters. Later on the State was divided into four mahals, each being placed under Vahivatdar who enjoyed executive powers. The mahals were

1. *The Summary Report of the Administration of the Palanpur State*, 1942-43.
2. FRAMROZ SORABJI MASTER, *The Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. IV (1919), p. 28, and *The Annual Administration Report of Radhanpur State for the year 1944-45*, p. 8.



again divided into tehasils over which Tehsildars were appointed. They recovered the revenue of their respective tehsils. The Radhanpur mahal had 10 tehsils while the Sami mahal had 9, the Mujpur mahal 8, the Ved mahal 7 and Balodhan mahal 3. All the Vahivatdars, the Simada Kamdar, the Head Surveyor and the Grass Kartandar worked under the Revenue Adhikari, who had the powers of a First Class Magistrate in purely revenue cases.

The Vighoti system or the system of cash assessment prevailed in all the villages of the State. The total area of land was 2,09,488.28 hectares of which 19,508.22 hectares were in possession of Bhayats and Inamdars and Jagirdars and 29,929.27 were in possession of other alienees. The Survey Department was opened in the year 1886 and all the villages had been surveyed. The average land revenue was about Rs. 2,92,830.

According to the Annual Administration Report of Radhanpur State for the years 1944-47, all cultivators had been granted full occupancy rights. In some of the villages, succession rights had also been granted which were duly recognised by the State authorities. Some of the villages were under Khalsa Revenue Vahivat and some were held by Bhayats and the alienees. The total number of villages in the State was 174. Out of these villages, 152 villages were under Khalsa Vahivat, 14 were held by Bhayats, 6 were held by Inamdars and 2 by Dharmada holders. The State had a share in the revenue of the villages of Undi which were under the Varahi Thana and were attached to it.

SURVES AND SETTLEMENT

Prior to 1947, Bhagbatai, Kaltar and Udhad methods of recovery of land revenue prevailed. These methods have been described previously. The district at present consists of 11 talukas, viz., Palanpur, Deesa, Vadgam, Danta, Dhanera, Tharad, Vav, Kankrej, Santalpur, Deodar and Radhanpur. In the States of Palanpur, Radhanpur, Vadgam and in some villages of Dhanera and Santalpur taluka original survey and settlement were introduced during 1873 to 1925.

The Survey Department in Palanpur State was opened in 1878 and some 345 villages were surveyed. The settlement was introduced in 1893. The survey was done by the method of cross staff and



tippan books were prepared embodying measurements of each survey numbers. In Radhanpur the department was opened in 1886 and all villages were surveyed. The revision settlement was introduced from 1925 to 1947. The surveyed villages were mostly Khalsa. More emphasis was laid on survey than on settlement during the State regime and settlement method was not adopted scientifically. The original settlements did not give any guarantee in respect of area and assessment.

Kankrej Taluka

In this taluka, no attempt was made for survey work and no cash assessment system was introduced in the pre-Independence period upto 1947. The plough tax was in force. There were no Bagayat and Kyari lands but only Jirayat lands were found to exist. However, as the Agency tried to introduce Vighoti system Pakka survey and settlement were introduced in some villages such as Bukali, Umri, Kamboi, Veda, etc. The lands in these villages and been classified into four classes and assessment was levied at the rates varying from 6 annas to Rs. 2 per Vigha for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes according to the fertility of the soil. In some villages, where the financial condition of the people was not good, only Kutchha survey of the field was done in the year 1919.

Post-Independence Period

The survey and settlement introduced during the State regimes did not confirm to the scientific system of settlement embodied in the Bombay Land Revenue Code. Most of the villages of the pre-merged areas of Deodar, Tharad, Kankrej, Vav, Danta were totally unsurveyed and unsettled. The wholesale survey and scientific classification were carried out in the villages of the merged State areas in Talukas of Deodar, Tharad, Kankrej, Vav, and Danta during the years 1956 to 1960 and partial survey and classification were also carried out in talukas of Palanpur, Vadgam, Deesa, Radhanpur, Dhanera and Santalpur. Government thought it advisable to rationalise and bring the land revenue system on par with that of the State of Bombay. In Palanpur and Radhanpur State areas, the lands were surveyed and only some partial survey was found necessary after 1947, to bring the survey up-to-date. This was got done through the staff of the Merged State Area Survey and Classification Scheme. which was largely employed in this district. At the time of merger in all 477 villages were surveyed



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and 901 were unsurveyed. Those areas which were unsurveyed had been got surveyed by the same staff. The soils of the former State areas were got classified after 1947. In none of the areas of this district there was anything like land revenue settlement. Land revenue assessment has, therefore, been fixed under section 7 of the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagir Abolition) Act, 1953, in the former Jagir areas and under Land Revenue Rule 19-0 framed under section 52 of Bombay Land Revenue Code (it was applied in 1948) in the rest of the areas. According to Land Revenue Rule 19-0 groups of villages of the merged areas were formed on consideration of their homogeneity in respect of permanent and semi-permanent factors of physical configuration, climate and rainfall, markets, communications and mode of husbandry and Comparable Union Areas were fixed for them. Land Revenue assessments were then worked out by applying (i) the recoverable rate worked out under Land Revenue Rule 19-N, or (ii) the existing rate prevailing in the merged area or (iii) the rate worked out on the basis of average cash value of 35 per cent or 1/6th of the gross produce, whichever was the lowest to the soil classification value through the medium of the distance from village site scale and the actual area of survey number or its sub-division.

Under section 7 of the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, the land revenue assessment was fixed by applying the rate of adjoining homogeneous *Khalsa* village.

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

The Revenue Department is the oldest and the best known department to the general public. The Collector is *ex-officio* District Magistrate and the agent of the State Government in the district. He is known as the Head of the district organization. Besides revenue administration, this department administers other branches of Government for which a separate department is not considered necessary. The department thus administers the Court of Wards Act, the Stamp Act, the National Savings Schemes, etc. Although there is a Registration Department, under the Director of Land Records, the Collector functions as the District Registrar. Although there is a separate Land Records Department, the work of the District Inspector of Land Records is looked after by the Collector and the Mamlatdar works as a City Survey Officer. The Jails are under the control of the Inspector General of Prisons, yet the functioning of the Sub-Jails is supervised by the District Magistrate.



Thus the department supervises the different activities of the other departments for which they do not have the necessary staff. Further- whenever any new scheme or legislation is to be enforced, Government entrusts the work to this department on account of its well trained and extensive staff. The services of the department are also requisitioned for all types of elections, population census and civil supply works. In short, the services of the department are required whenever the people in bulk have to be dealt with or large scale information is to be collected for which no separate machinery exists.

The Revenue Department is in charge of the relief measures during natural calamities like floods, famines, etc. In the rural areas, the work is carried out by the panchayat officials according to Government orders. The rehabilitation programmes are checked in consultation with the district Collector. In the work of Revenue Department, Collector plays an important part.

However, the main functions of the department are maintenance of law and order, development and co-ordination of the activities of other departments. These cover settlement and administration of land revenue, maintenance of revenue records, enforcement of land reforms, acquisition and requisition of property, excise duty, territorial changes, administration of certain taxes, entertainment taxes, education cess and collection of arrears of revenue of other departments in the district.

सत्यमेव जयते

After the introduction of the Panchayati Raj in April 1963, many of the revenue duties, particularly functions regarding developmental programmes and collection of land revenue, have been transferred to the Panchayati Raj institutions. Still the revenue duties of maintaining law and order, maintenance of land records, settlement of land revenue, civil supply and co-ordination of the activities of other departments in the district continue with the Revenue Department.

This district is divided into three sub-divisions, viz., Palanpur, Tharad and Radhanpur. The hierarchy of the revenue official consists of the Prant Officer or Deputy Collector who is in charge of a sub-division, Mamlatdar is in charge of a taluka and is assisted by Deputy Mamlatdar, Circle Officer, Circle Inspectors and Talaties functioning at lower level. The collection of land revenue has been entrusted to the Gram/Nagar Panchayats. The Taluka Deve-



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lopment Officer is vested with all powers of a Mamlatdar in the matter of revenue collection. The Circle Inspectors are placed under his direct control and are also responsible for the work of the Talati-cum-Mantries who look after collection of revenue and the maintenance of village records.

There are 25 Circle Inspectors in the district working under the Collector. In matters relating to maintenance and repairs of boundary marks and crop inspection, their work is also supervised by the District Inspector of Land Records. So far as this district is concerned, Collector has to look after the law and order of the district as he is the Controller of Civil Defence. The Collector plays an important part during war situation as the district has common border with Pakistan near Suigam. It is his duty to help the Border Security Force and the Military Force, if any, in providing transport and other facilities. He has also to alert the people during this period against the air raids, and do the rescue, relief, and evacuation work in case of an actual raid. To assist the Collector in Civil Defence work, there is special staff which consists of one Instructor in the grade of a Police Inspector, and a Storeman in the grade of a Senior Clerk. During the normal times this staff is utilised by the Instructor for conducting training classes in civil defence.

FUNCTIONS OF LAND RECORDS DEPARTMENT

The survey and classification are the main basis for the introduction of the Record of Rights and the settlement in the district. It has been observed previously that both in Palanpur and Radhanpur States the Survey Departments were opened as early as 1878.

In the year 1947-48 office of the District Inspector of Land Records was created to carry out functions and duties of the Land Records Department as an adjunct to the Revenue Department. The Land Records Department is now a separate Department of Gujarat State and is an adjunct to the Revenue Department. The Head of this Department is the Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records at the State level. For administrative purposes, the State is divided into 3 circles, viz., Vadodara, Ahmabad and Rajkot, each in charge of the Superintendent, Land Records who has under him District Inspectors of Land Records functioning at



the district level. The functions of this Department are.—

- (1) To maintain all survey, classification and settlement records up-to-date by keeping careful notes of all changes and for this purpose to carry out field operations preliminary to incorporation of the changes in the survey records.
- (2) To collect and provide statistics necessary for the sound administration of all matters connected with land.
- (3) To help reduce, simplify and cheapen litigation in revenue and civil courts by providing reliable survey and other records.
- (4) To supervise the preparations and maintenance of Record of Rights and of the periodical inspection of boundary marks.
- (5) To conduct periodical revision and settlement operations.
- (6) To organise and carry out village site and city survey on an extensive scale and arrange for thier proper maintenance.
- (7) To undertake special surveys for private individuals and public bodies, survey in connection with Railways, Municipal and Local Projects, Town Planning Schemes and Survey for Defence and other Government Departments.
- (8) To maintain up-to-date village, taluka and district maps reprint them and arrange for thier distribution to various Government Departments for administative purpose and sale to the public and
- (9) To train Revenue Officers in survey and settlement matters.

The District Inspector of Land Recrods, Banaskantha is principal officer in charge of Land Records Department in the district. He is a Gazetted Officer appointed by the Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records, Ahmadabad and is directly subordinate to the Superintendent of Land Recrods, Ahmadabad in all technical matters. He is also subordinate to the Collector of Banaskantha and has to carry out all administrative orders of the Collector in the matter of Survey and Land Records. His headquarters is at Palanpur.

Record of Rights—The Record of Rights has been introduced in all the villages of the district. After survey, the Land Records Department supplies the map or survey register and map to the revenue officials for compilation of Record of Rights. Section 135 B (1) of the Land Revenue Code provides that the Record of Rights should contain the following particulars :



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(a) names of all persons who are holdes,occupants, owners, or mortgagees of the land or assignees of the land or assignees of the rent or revenue thereof (b) the nature and extent of the respective interests of such persons and conditions or liabilities attached thereto: (c) rent or revenue, if any payable by or to any such persons: and (d) such other particulars as the State Government may prescribe under the Land Revenue Rules.

The State Government has now applied these provisions to all the agencies by Notification under section 134 B (2) of the Code whereunder any acquisition of right in land is to be reported to the village officer within 3 months by the person acquiring it unless the right is acquired under a registered document.

INCOME FROM LAND REVENUE AND SPECIAL CESSES CONNECTED WITH IT

Land revenue is an important source of income in the district. The table given below shows the demand, collection, remission and suspension in respect of the land revenue for the years 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73 for Banaskantha district.

*Land Revenue, Demand, Collection, etc., for the years 1970-71 ,
1971-72 and 1972-73*

(In Rupees)

Sl. No. (1)		1970--71 (2)	1971--72 (3)	1972--73 (4)
1.	Demand ..	1,11,07,239.96	95,64,982.77	86,66,636.25
2.	Collection ..	53,33,287.59	48,57,414.36	28,51,456.85
3.	Remission ..	3,02,541.86	1,19,891.03	2,13,094.84
4.	Suspension ..	14,36,014.02	7,25,255.58	10,82,874.80
5.	Percentage of Collection ..	56.4	55.0	32.0

Source :

District Development Officer, Banaskantha.

The table shows progressive decrease in original demand in all the three years. Similarly, decrease was also witnessed in respect of collection during this period. The reasons for decrease in gross consolidated demand and collection were mainly due to scarcity conditions prevailing during these years in the district. However, it must be noticed that sharp fall in percentage of collection—33



ction was witnessed only in the year 1973, which, according to District Development Officer, was a lean year of scarcity.

Local Fund Cess

In the Palanpur Agency there were four Local Funds Cesses, viz., (a) The Thana Varad, levied to meet the cost of Thana establishment and Thana police (b) the Deputy Falo devoted to the payment of salary and allowances of Deputy Educational Inspector and his establishment (C) Vaccination Varad for the maintenance of increased vaccination staff and (d) the Dispensary Varad, for the provision of medical relief. The scale of payments of these Varads was not based on any fixed principle and in consequence an unnecessary complicated system of accounts had to be maintained.

After the merger of the States with the Bombay State, this cess was levied under section 93 of the Bombay District Local Boards Act, 1923. It was formerly collected by the Revenue Department along with land revenue. However, after the implementation of the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 the functions of collecting land revenue and local fund cess have been transferred to the panchayats. The cess which was first levied at the rate of 20 paise in every rupee of the land revenue is now levied at the enhanced rate of 50 paise from 1st July, 1966.

In the Gujarat Panchyats Act, 1961, a provision has already been made for levy of an additional cess. At the request of the gram and nagar panchayats, the Sate Government may levy an additional cess upto 25 paise on every rupee of land revenue payable to the Government in the area within the jurisdiction of such panchayats. If such panchayat undertakes for benefit of the community any special work or project which is to be completed within a special period and for which additional funds are needed it may pass a resolution at its meeting and after obtaining previous permission of the district panchayat apply to the State Government to increase the rate upto 100 per cent in the land revenue payable to the State Government as ordinary land revenue.

Under section 195 of the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961, out of the sum equal to average land revenue collected or recovered during 3 preceeding years, a prescribed percentage is set apart for meeting expenditure on the salaries of the secretaries of the gram



panchayats and the village accountants (Talatis) in the State and on their training. A sum of 5 per cent is paid in to State Equalisation Fund established under section 196 of the Act. The balance amount is distributed as grants to the gram/nagar, taluka, and district panchayats and for constitution of the District Equalisation Fund and the District Gram Encouragement Fund established under section 197 and 198 of the Act. Under section 176 of the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 the net proceeds of the local cess are paid by the State Government to the district panchayats. However, 40 per cent of the proceeds from the local fund cess are credited by the panchayats to Government account as contribution by the panchayat for financing plan schemes.

Government has decided not to recover land revenue from 1st August, 1972 from small *Khatedars*, viz., those who hold land not in excess of 1/16 of the ceiling as specified in Gujarat Agricultural Lands Ceiling Act, 1960. Government has also decided that the panchayats should not suffer on this account and Government would suitably compensate the panchayats for the loss of their revenue.

Irrigation Cess

The irrigation cess was levied formerly in respect of land under irrigation command of a canal under section 56 (c) of the Bombay Irrigation Act, 1879. The irrigation cess was in addition to the water rates or other charges leviable under the provisions of this Act. The actual rates of the cess were to be notified by Government as per section 56 E of the Act. The rate of cess was Rs. 2.50 per acre (vide Government Notification, P. W. D. No. GHJ-186/WTR/1068/2/P, dated 22nd May, 1968). No such cess is however, collected with effect from 14th February, 1970 as per the judgement of the Gujarat High Court declaring section 56 E as illegal on the Writ Petition of certain cultivators.

In the district, the total demand of this cess for the years 1963-64, 1964-65 and 1965-66 amounted to Rs 37,516.00. As against this demand, Rs. 18,469.00 had been recovered.

Education Cess

After the formation of the separate State of Gujarat, for



promotion of education, a surcharge on agricultural and non-agricultural lands was levied by enacting the Gujarat Education Cess Act, 1962. This Act came into force from 1st August, 1962. An Education Cess Fund has been created out of the receipts from (1) the surcharge on all lands, agricultural and non-agricultural, assessed to land revenue, and (2) tax on lands and buildings in urban areas. A surcharge of 20 per cent is levied with effect from 1st August, 1962 on agricultural lands which are assessed or held for the purpose of agriculture and not used for any purpose unconnected with agriculture. A surcharge varying from $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to 75 per cent of non-agricultural assessment is levied on all the unalienated lands subjects to non-agricultural assessment and on all the alienated lands (excluding village sites) used for purposes other than agriculture. These rates have come into force from 1st August, 1962.

Under section 12 of the Gujarat Education Cess Act, 1962, a tax on lands and buildings situated in an urban area is levied at the following rates :

Sl. No.	Item	Rates of tax (as percentage to the annual letting value)	
		Lands and buildings used for residential purposes	Lands and buildings used for trade, commerce or industry or the carrying on of a profession of business
1	2	3	4
1.	If the annual letting value is upto Rs. 300	Exempted	Exempted
2.	If the annual letting value is above Rs. 300 but up to Rs. 1,000	3	4-1/2
3.	If the annual letting value is above Rs. 1,000 but upto Rs. 2,000	5	7-1/2
4.	If the annual letting value is above Rs. 2,000 but upto Rs. 4,500	6	9
5.	If the annual letting value is above Rs. 4,500	7	10-1/2

The surcharge levied on agricultural as well as non-agricultural lands is transferred at the end of the year to the State Education Cess Fund and is utilised on schemes for promotion of education in the State. During 1963-64, Government had directed that one third of the tax collected on lands and buildings within the municipal areas should be given to the municipalities as grant with effect from 1st August, 1962, the date from which the cess has been



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levied. Against a total demand of Rs 11,36,774.77 a sum of Rs. 4,71,009-81 was collected as education cess during the year 1972-73 in the district.

LAND REFORMS

A significant portion of the present Banaskantha district was feudal in character. After Independence the princely States were integrated with the Indian Union. An important effect of this change was that all the tenants i. e. holders of Khalsa lands became directly tenants of the State. There remained, however, member holders of non-Khalsa lands which were partly the products of political manoeuvres of the British and the princely States to retain power. The area held by the intermediaries was substantial. The tenants in these areas were to be brought on par with the other tenants and were also required to be protected against the owners of their lands. The tenants in the Khalsa area were also required to be protected against various malpractices. The land reforms, therefore sought to tackle this problem on two broad lines (i) the abolition of intermediaries, and (ii) tenancy legislation to protect tenants from malpractices and confer on them occupancy rights.

A resume of land reform measures in the areas of the Banaskantha is given in the following paragraphs.

The former Government of Bombay and the Gujarat Government enacted the following Acts, abolishing the inams and tenants to bring the actual cultivator in direct relation with the State. The list of Acts, applicable to the district is given below:

1. The Bombay Prevention of Fragmentation and Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1947.
2. The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948.
3. The Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953.
4. The Bombay Merged Territories (Miscellaneous Alienations Abolition) Act, 1955.
5. The Gujarat Agricultural Lands Ceiling Act, 1960.



6. The Gujarat Surviving Alienations Abolition Act, 1963.

7. The Gujarat Devasthan Inams Abolition Act, 1969.

All the tenures now stand abolished. The occupant in these areas are now brought directly in relation with the State and all intermediaries and alienations have been abolished. Under the Acts, generally speaking, the Inamdars, etc., were recognised as occupants in respects of lands in their Gharkhed, while their tenants and inferior holders were conferred occupancy rights on payment of occupancy price. Inamdars were entitled to compensation for their rights.

The former Jagiri tenure has been abolished in the district under the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act and inams have been abolished under the Bombay Merged Territories (Miscellaneous Alienations Abolition) Act. The Devasthan Inams have also been abolished. The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948 has been applied to the district with a view to do away with intermediaries between agriculturists and State. The Bombay Prevention of Fragmentation and Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1947 has been applied to the areas of the district. The implementation of the same started in 1954, has made progress in Deodar and Palanpur talukas. Under the Gujarat Agricultural Lands Ceiling Act, 1960 the maximum limits to the land holdings have been laid down.

The Acts applicable to Banaskantha district are now described in the subsequent pages.

The Bombay Prevention of Fragmentation and Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1947

Consolidation of Holdings—The excessive sub-divisions of land has been the main impediment to agricultural production. The consolidation of small and scattered holdings is accepted, therefore, as a preliminary step towards formation of co-operative farming. The consolidation programme, therefore, should not be thought of in isolation but in the context of entire land policy of the State. In order to tackle this problem the Bombay Prevention of Fragmentation and Consolidation of Holdings Act, was enacted in 1947 and was applied to this district during the period of First Five



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Year Plan. Under this Act, standard areas have been laid down for this district and all holdings below standard areas are entered in a register with the ultimate object of their being consolidated into economic holdings of standard size. The Act provides for prevention of fragmentation in agricultural holding and also provides for consolidation of the scattered parcels of land into compact holdings. For the purpose of implementation of the Act, standard areas have been fixed for all the talukas. The table given below shows the number of villages covered and also the extent of the progress made under the Act of 1947 in this district:

Sl. No. 1	Name of the Taluka 2	No. of Villages 3
1.	Deodar	123
2.	Palanpur	34
3.	Vadgam	11

The main reasons for slow progress in the district are as follows :

1. lack of demand from the people;
2. irrigation areas are also not large and rent is unassured;
3. inadequate and incorrect state of records and
4. lack of propaganda.

The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948

The principal objective of tenancy reforms is to make tenants the owners of land cultivated by them on payment of purchase price of the land. The relations between the two were mostly governed by mutual contracts or local usage and customs. This Act, was extensively amended in 1956. It provided that on the 1st April, 1957 described as 'tillers day' every tenant whether permanent, protected or ordinary was deemed to have purchased from the landlord, the land leased to him subject to the condition that the tenant cultivated the land personally and his total holding did not exceed the ceiling areas and the purchase price did not exceed two hundred times the assessment. Subsequently this Act was also amended from time to time. In December, 1972 the Gujarat Assembly adopted as minor amendment the Tenancy Amendment Bill which safeguards the right of tenant by



plugging loopholes in the existing Act. One of the most radical provision of the amendment pertains to the ban on the sale of farm land, for agricultural use to non-agriculturists whose annual income exceeds Rs. 5,000. The measure is intended to prevent the entry of non-agriculturists into farm sector as many as of those earning more than Rs 5,000 buy farm land to avoid the payment of income tax. In the district till 21st April, 1975 in all 6,847 tenants had become owners of the land for area measuring 16,322.60 hactares.

The Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953

There were Jagirs covering several categories in the merged territories and areas of the district. They could be broadly divided into two categories, viz., (1) those granted for maintenance to the members of the royal family, and (2) those granted in services to the State or valour in war. These two categories of Jagirs were found in all the former States and Estates of Gujarat. The maintenance grants were called *Jiwarak*, *Jiwai* or *Ayada* and were held generally by the younger brothers of the rulers and cadets.

In the former States of Palanpur, Danta, etc., Jagirs were given to the Sardars for military services under *pattas*. They were therefore, called Patavati jagirs. In the State of Palanpur, these were Bhomia Jagirs which antedated the advent of the British. The Jagirdars were on the soil (भूमि) and were, therefore, not the grantees of the rulers. In the ex-Tharad State, there were special jagirs called Jamayia Jagirs. In 1948, certain holders of the States and Estates in the district executed the Zamindari Agreements. Under these Agreement the estate holders were entitled to collect rent in cash or kind from the cultivators of these villages and had to pay to the Government only the total annual contribution which they used to pay to the Government of India before the merger till the survey and settlement were introduced in those States. As a result, Government could not assume the entire administration of small estates in the district. Thus the Zamindary Agreements created a new type of intermediary interests like the Jagirs. They might be called "Zamindary Jagirs". In short, the expression 'Jagirs' covered a medley of grants for maintenance, appreciation or remuneration created for reasons of political expediency or exigencies of administration.

1. The legislation write-up is based on the book entitled "*The Land Problem of the Re-organised Bombay State*" by Dr. G. D. Patel, Bombay, 1957.



As stated above, most of the Jagiri villages situated in the former States of Palanpur, Danta etc., were surveyed and settled during the State regimes, with exception of hills, forests and saline sandy soils. In these Jagirs, the systems of land revenue were Bhag-batai, Vaje while Hol Narwa existed in Palanpur State (Plogh tax).

All these Jagirs were abolished under the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953 with effect from the 1st August, 1954. The Act applies to grants consisting of entire alienated villages and portions of villages and not to the scattered lands and cash allowances. It classifies the Jagirs into proprietary and non-proprietary. Besides, it recognises another category of Jagirs called the lifetime Jiwai Jagirs. Such Jagirs could be either proprietary and non-proprietary. Occupancy rights are recognised in respect of Gharkhed lands held by Jagirdars or cadets and the lands held by permanent holders. Tenants in proprietary and non-proprietary villages are made eligible to the rights of occupancy on payment of the occupancy price equal to six multiples of assessment, to the Jagirdars and the State, respectively. As usual the Devasthan and Dharmada Inams held for the institutions and inams held for service useful to Government were saved. They are now abolished under the Gujarat Devasthan Inams Abolition Act, 1969.

The vesting of public properties and land is on the analogy of other abolition Acts. However, rights of the Jagirdar's to mines, minerals and forests have been protected.

As regards provision of compensation the pattern of the Bombay Talukadari Tenure Abolition Act, 1949 is followed for the proprietary Jagirs and that of Ankadia Tenure Abolition Act, 1953 for non-proprietary Jagirs. In the case of the life-time Jiwai Jagirs, however, the compensation is provided at ten times the average amount of land revenue recovered by or due to the Jagirdar.

As the abolition of the personal inams created uproar amongst the Inamdars in the State, the abolition of the Jagirs created much consternation and uproar amongst the Jagirdars in the merged territories and areas. Next to the personal inams this measure has affected all sorts of holders of jagirs in one respect or the other. The Act, has been enforced in the district with effect from 1st August, 1954.



This Act is made applicable to 882 Jagirs of the district. Before the Act came into force tenure-holders covered an area of 8,51,174.93 hectares and assessed at Rs. 9,96,530.45. The tenure-holders paid Rs. 1,70,458.55 as Judi to Government.

After implementation of the Act, 75,866 individuals became occupants in respect of an area measuring 7,50,245.27 hectares and assessed at Rs. 12,28,222.04. Persons getting occupancy rights without payment of occupancy price in respect of area measuring 6,77,888.67 hectares assessed at Rs. 12,19,902 were 68,917. In all 6,949 persons got occupancy rights on payment of occupancy price of Rs. 7,53,574.33 for the area measuring 72,364.30 hectares and assessed at Rs. 8,319.45. The total properties measuring 2,02,337.83 hectares and assessed at Rs. 83,773.05 were vested in Government under the Act. The Government had to pay compensation of Rs. 82,00,000 to the Jagirdars.

The Bombay Merged Territories (Miscellaneous Alienations Abolition) Act, 1955

After the abolition of Baroda Wantas and non-Ryotwari tenures such as Ankadia, Jagirs, etc., from the merged territories and areas of the district, several miscellaneous alienations consisting of scattered lands and cash allowances survived. The alienations were mainly made for maintenance to the Maharaj Kumars and other members of the royal family and to other persons as a rewards or remuneration for services rendered to the State. In order to abolish them, the Miscellaneous Alienations Abolition Act, 1955 was enacted and enforced with effect from 1st August, 1955. The Act was applied to the merged territories only and therefore the alienations in the merged areas were not affected. The definition of the expression "alienations" given in the Act covers a wide category of alienations such as entire villages, portions of villages consisting of grants of soil with or without exemption from payment of land revenue or of assignment of land revenue, total or partial exemption from payment of land revenue, cash allowance or allowance in kind of any type by the ruling authority before the merger or by the State Government after the merger including wanta and giras lands. Although the definition of "alienation" covers entire villages, Government decided that the entire alienated villages should be deemed to have been abolished under the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas



(Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953 and not under this Act. The net result of these orders is that the Act has covered alienations consisting of scattered lands, assignment of land revenue and cash allowances only.

The Act does not apply to certain types of alienations such as :
(1) Devsthan inams or inams held by religious or charitable institutions, (Since abolished under the Act of 1969), (2) alienations held for service useful to Government other than Wanta, (3) any pension granted to an ex-servant of a former Indian State in consideration of the service to that State, and (4) revenue free site granted for dispensaries, schools, etc.,

Broadly, the Act divides the alienations into the following six categories, viz.,

- (i) the community services inam lands (Section 6).
- (ii) the paragana and kulkarni watan lands (Section 7)
- (iii) the Baroda watan or giras lands (Section 8),
- (iv) the residual alienations not covered by categories (1) to (3) above (Section 9)
- (v) allowances in cash and kind (Section 15), and
- (vi) assignment of land revenue (Section 14)

As regards the compensation provisions, the pattern of compensation for the lands vested in Government under section 11 is analogous to that in the Bombay Talukdari Tenure Abolition Act, 1949. However the provisions relating to compensation for abolition of the alienations consisting of assignment of whole or part of land revenue of a village varies according as the assignment was hereditarily; subject to service or succession cuts or for the lifetime of the holder. If the assignment was hereditary without any cuts, the compensation at seven times the amount of land revenue is awardable; if it was hereditary but subject to cuts then five times the amount of such allowance. If it was for lifetime, only three times the amount of land revenue was awarded as compensation.

By coming into force of the Act the persons who were service Inamdars were given occupancy rights subject to payment of six



times the assessment to Government. The Inami lands which were not subject to the rendering of services were also abolished. The tenure covered an area of 54,198.95 hectares assessed at Rs. 1,31,764.12. After the abolition of the alienations, 14,730 persons became occupants in respect of an area admeasuring 70,739.90 hectares assessed at Rs 1,53,769.02. Other alienees also got occupancy rights on payment of occupancy price.

The Gujarat Agricultural Lands Ceiling Act, 1960

Ceiling on Land Holdings—The Gujarat Agricultural Lands Ceiling Act, 1960 was enacted and enforced with effect from 1st September, 1961. It provides ceilings on existing holdings as well as on future acquisition. The ceiling is on a person which includes a joint family. No allowance is made for the size of a family. The ceiling area varies according to the class of land. In the case of a dry crop land, ceiling varies from 22.66 hectares to 53.42 hectares, in the case of rice land from 15.38 hectares to 35.61 hectares in the case of seasonally irrigated land from 15.38 hectares to 35.61 hectares and in the case of perennially irrigated land from 7.69 hectares to 17.81 hectares. Thus, the ceiling varies from 7.69 hectares to 53.42 hectares according to local areas and classes of land. The level of ceiling on future acquisition is the same as that on existing holdings.

The ceiling areas prescribed for different classes of land are as under:

Ceiling Area

Class of Local area	Ceiling area in Hectares			
	Dry crop land	Rice land.	Seasonally irrigated land	Perennially irrigated land
1	2	3	4	5
A	22.66	15.38	15.38	7.69
B	24.28	16.19	16.19	8.09
C	29.14	19.42	19.42	9.71
D	32.37	21.85	21.85	10.93
E	33.99	22.66	22.66	11.33
F	38.85	25.90	25.90	12.95
G	43.71	29.14	29.14	14.57
H	48.56	32.37	32.37	16.19
I	53.42	35.61	35.61	17.81

The sub-joined Statement XI.1 shows number of villages falling in different classes in this district.



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STATEMENT XI.1

The total number of villages covered by the Gujarat Agricultural Lands Ceiling Act, 1960 in the district for different Classes of Lands

Name of Taluka	Ceiling Area for different Classes					
	D No. of villages	E No. of villages	F No. of villages	G No. of villages	H No. of villages	I No. of villages
1. Palanpur ..	40	..	83	..	61	..
2. Deesa ..	59	..	89	..	..	..
3. Dhanera ..	..	..	..	..	..	131
4. Vadgam ..	110	..	..	..	..	..
5. Danta ..	..	..	..	..	42	145
6. Radhanpur ..	..	..	..	..	..	55
7. Santalpur ..	..	..	..	..	..	75
8. Deodar ..	..	..	..	..	..	124
9. Kankrej ..	64	..	41	..	..	..
10. Tharad ..	..	..	..	..	..	135
11. Vav ..	..	..	..	..	..	121
Total ..	273	..	213	..	103	786
2. Dry crop ceiling area	hectares 32.37	hectares 38.85	hectares 48.56	hectares 53.42		

Source :

The Collector, Banaskantha District, Palanpur.

About transfer, very stringent provisions have been made. No transfer or partition can be made by a person holding land in excess of the ceiling area after the commencement of the Act. Any transfer or partition made between 15th January, 1959 (the date of Nagpur Resolution) and 1st September, 1961 (date of commencement) shall be deemed to have been made with a view to defeating the object of the Act and shall be ignored in computing the surplus land held by the person. The surplus so determined shall be taken in the first instance from the transferee to the extent of land available with him and the balance, if any, shall be taken in the first instance from the transferee to whom transfer was made after 1st September, 1961 and thereafter from the transferee to whom the transfer was made after 15th January, 1959 and before 1st September, 1961. Under the law, the land owners are enjoined to



declare the surplus area within the time prescribed. Elaborate provisions are made for computing the surplus lands.

Under the law 1583 acres of land came in the possession of Government in this district. The process is already in full swing to implement the revised ceiling Act and it is estimated that about 10,000 hectares of land would be available.

Exemptions

The following categories of lands are, however, exempted from the ceiling limits :

(i) lands held in compact blocks of efficiently managed farms on which heavy investments or permanent structural improvements have been made and the break-up of which will lead to a fall in production,

(ii) lands leased to or held by bodies or persons for growing fruit trees and used for that purposes for not less than last 3 years,

(iii) lands held or leased by approved land development banks,

(iv) lands held or leased by approved co-operative societies for improvement of economic and social conditions of peasants or for ensuring the full and efficient use of lands,

(v) lands leased or held by approved industrial undertaking which, in the opinion of the State Government carries on any industrial operation, and

(vi) land being the property of a public trust for an educational purpose, hospital, *panjrapole*, *gaushala* or an institution of public religious worship, the entire income from which is for the purpose of the trust.



The land in the categories mentioned above is not taken into account in computing the ceiling area of a person, but if the extent of land held under such categories exceeds the ceiling area, the person is not permitted to retain other lands.

The Gujarat Surviving Alienations Abolition Act, 1963

The Gujarat Surviving Alienations Abolition Act, 1963 was brought into force with effect from 1st October, 1963. The Act abolished all surviving inams which were not abolished by any of the tenure abolition laws of the former Saurashtra and Bombay States. The Act extended to the whole of Gujarat State, abolished alienations altogether with incidents thereof and alienated lands have been made liable to the payment of land revenue. These alienations include jiwai lands held by the Bhayats of ex-rulers and other service Inamdars.

The Act was made applicable to the district from 1st October, 1963. Before the Act came into force there was one tenure called Giras or Wanta. The Act was implemented in the Deodar, Kan-krej, Tharad, Santalpur and Vav talukas. This tenure covered an area of 16,942.60 hectares assessed at Rs. 33,127.61. The tenure-holders paid Rs. 1,642.34 as Judi to Government and enjoyed Rs. 22,344.05 as Nuksan. After the abolition of the tenure 2,206 persons became occupants in respect of 16,569.40 hectares assessed at Rs. 33,127.67. All 2,206 persons got occupancy rights in respect of 16,569.40 hectares of land assessed at Rs. 33,127.67 without payment of occupancy price.

The Gujarat Devasthan Inams Abolition Act, 1969

From time immemorial the rulers of Gujarat, like rulers in other parts of India, used to make grants of land free of land revenue or cash allowances for maintenance of religious and charitable institutions. Such grants were called Devasthan Inams. They consisted of entire villages or portions of villages.

In order to abolish these inams held by religious or charitable institutions in the former Bombay areas of the State of Gujarat, the Gujarat Devasthan Inams Abolition Act, 1969 was enacted and brought into force with effect from 15th November, 1969. The Act has a limited application. Firstly, it extends only to the



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former Bombay areas of the State of Gujarat and excludes the Saurashtra districts and the Kachchh district from its purview. Secondly, it applies to the Devasthan Inams consisting of lands only and not cash allowances or allowances in kind.

It abolished Devasthan Inams consisting of lands only together with all their incidents, which have been made liable to payment of land revenue. Occupancy rights are granted to (1) the Inamdar, where such land was in his possession and had been cultivated on behalf of the Inamdar, (2) authorised holder or inferior holder, where such land was in possession of a person other than the Inamdar, authorised holder, unauthorised holder or inferior holder.

Where any Devasthan land is in the possession of an unauthorised holder, it shall be resumed and an unauthorised holder shall be summarily evicted. If in the opinion of the State Government, the eviction of such holder would entail hardship on him in view of the investment made by him, in the development of the land or in the non-agricultural use, the State Government may direct the Collector to regrant the land to such holder on payment of such amount and subject to such terms and conditions as the State Government may determine. The lands, which are not so regranted shall be disposed of under the provisions of the Bombay Land Revenue Code.

All public roads, lanes and paths, the bridges, ditches, dikes and fences, rivers, streams, lakes, wells, tanks, canals and water courses, etc., and all lands excluding land used for buildings and other non-agricultural purposes in respect of which no person is deemed to be an occupant and all mines whether being worked or not and minerals whether discovered or not and all quarries situated within the Devasthan lands have been vested in Government. All rights held by an Inamdar in such properties shall be deemed to have been extinguished and such lands shall be available for disposal by the Collector.

For abolition of the Inam rights in Devasthan lands, provision is made for payment of compensation to the Inamdars in the form of perpetual annuity. If the grant consisted of soil with or

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without exemption from payment of land revenue, the amount of compensation payable would be an average of the full assessment leviable during a period of three years before the commencement of the Act. If the grant consisted of assignment of land revenue or share in such land revenue, the gratuity shall be equal to an average of the amount of the land revenue or share therein received by the Inamdar during a period of three years before the commencement of the Act. The compensation shall be payable to the Inamdars on application to the Collector.

The Act provides for abolition of (1) the exemption enjoyed by institutions for public religious worship under section 88(B) of the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948, (2) the exemption which was available to the Devasthan Inams in regards to the provisions available to the landlord in respect of the termination of tenancy, and (3) the exemption which was provided for the Devasthan Inam land in the ceiling Act.

This Act is made applicable to 29 Devasthan Inams. This tenure covered an area of 23,129.85 hectares assessed at Rs.57,006.44. The Inam holders paid no Jodi to Government and enjoyed Rs. 57,006.44 as Nuksan. After the abolition of the Inams, 3,844 persons became occupants in respect of 37,476.74 hectares assessed at Rs. 36,258.88 and 647 persons became occupants on payment of occupancy price in respect 2,554.78 hectares assessed at Rs. 7,067.25.

The total properties admeasuring 2,376.72 hectares and assessed at Rs. 1,746.66 were vested in Government.

THE BHOODAN MOVEMENT

In order to reduce inequalities in the distribution of land, legislative measures for abolition of intermediaries, tenancy reforms and land ceilings have been adopted by the State Government. These measures have not helped to solve the problem of landless labourers. In this context, the contribution of the Bhoodan Movement as one of the schemes of land distribution to the landless has got a special value. Secondly, this movement is a reminder that the land problem cannot be solved by legislation alone. The Bhoodan movement also attempts at the abolition of the concept of private ownership. The movement has paled into insignificance of late.

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The fundamental principle of the movement is that all land belongs to God (*Sab Bhoomi Gopalki*) and a man as a social agent of production is only trustee of the land which should be treated for the entire community.

This movement, which started in 1951 in Telengana region of the former Hyderabad State (now in Andhra Pradesh) spread during the walking tours undertaken by Shri Vinobaji. Subsequently it was extended to all the States including the State of Gujarat.

Distribution of Donated Lands

Since the distribution of the donated lands is vital to the success of the movement, it is necessary to know the conditions to be fulfilled for the land distribution, which are stated below :

(1) The date on which the land is to be distributed is announced by beat of drum or leaflets in the village.

(2) The Revenue Officers from Talati to Collector upwards and the village panchayat members attend the function.

(3) As far as possible, one-third of the land is given to the Harijans.

(4) As far as practicable the land is given to the landless of that very village. After distribution to the landless, the excess land, if any, may be distributed amongst the landless of the adjacent villages. Such lands are to be given to persons who are capable and willing to cultivate land personally.

(5) For a family of 5 persons, 1 acre of irrigated land or $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of dry land is granted. Under special circumstances, land exceeding 5 acres may also be given.

(6) Attempt is made to consolidate the scattered lands into the compact block. If small parcels of land cannot be given for cultivation, they may be assigned for manure pits, public latrines, etc.

(7) The lands, which are cultivable, are liable to payment of land revenue to Government from the day of grant.



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(8) If such lands remain uncultivated for a period of 2 years, it will be open to Government to grant them to other landless persons.

(9) Three-year limit is fixed for making donated virgin lands, waste lands or Khar lands, cultivable.

These are the main principles of distribution of lands received in the Bhoodan.

The movement, which raised high hopes and aspirations among the landless labourers in the beginning has not made much headway because the district is economically and socially backward. This is evident from the table given below :

Progress of Bhoodan Movement

Year	Name of Taluka	Doners	Hectares of land donated.
1953-54	Tharad	18	17.80
	Vav	75	126.26
	Palanpur	77	228.65
	Deesa	64	108.46
1955-56	Kankrej	26	22.26
	Deodar	9	27.11
1958-59	Dhanera	45	89.44
1962-63	Danta	6	5.26
1967-68	Vadgam	70	39.66
	Radhanpur	47	97.53
1968-69	Vadgam	50	28.33
1969-70	Vadgam	17	17.81

Source :

The Collector, Banaskantha District, Palanpur.

From the table it will be observed that the extent of land donated is negligible in the district and the movement has not made much headway.

RURAL WAGES

The district is mainly dependent upon agriculture and allied activities. As compared to Gujarat State which has an average of 280 cultivators and labourers per 1,000 of population in 1961, the district has an average of 352 per 1,000 of population. The



problem of rural wages needs to be examined in this context. In past the wages of agricultural labour was as low as 4 annas. The rural wage structure in the district is not uniform but it varies slightly from one tract to another. It also depends on the availability of local labourers and the type of season, i. e., busy or slack. The rates and levels of wages in the district vary according to different agricultural operations. The wage structure analysis tries to explain inter-related wage rates. The wages paid to men and women labourers are different for weeding, transplanting, picking and harvesting. Children also employed in agriculture are paid low wages. The labourers are usually paid in cash and rarely in kind. The daily wage rate in the district has increased considerably between 1955-56 to 1972-73. This is evident from the table given below :

Rates of Wages for the years 1955-56, and between 1967-68 to 1972-73

Year.	Rates of Wages in Rs.		
	Males.	Females.	Children.
1955-56	1.50	1.00	0.75
1967-68	3.00	2.50	1.50
1968-69	3.00	2.50	1.50
1969-70	3.00	2.50	1.50
1970-71	3.50	3.00	2.00
1971-72	3.50	3.00	2.00
1972-73	4.00	3.00	2.00

Source : सत्यमेव जयते
The District Agricultural Officer, Palanpur.

In the district, a large number of persons possess no lands of their own but are dependent upon the agriculture for their livelihood. The agricultural labourers in the district are drawn from the following castes, viz., Harijans, Thakardas, Weavers, Kolis, Chamars, Bhils, Rabaris, etc., Some of these labourers have marginal lands and they work as agricultural labourers when they have no work on their own land. The farm labourers are recruited in the district both for permanent and casual employment.

Permanent Labour

The important system of permanent labour, prevalent in the district is the 'sathi' or 'chakar'. The 'sathi' or 'chakar' is engaged for the whole year. He does all types of farm work. The 'sathi' is mostly treated as one of the members of the farmer's family.



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In some cases, the 'sathi' is given a *lump sum* from Rs. 275 to 350. He occasionally gets the amount as and when required by him. In some cases, he is paid yearly Rs. 700 to Rs. 800 in cash and is also supplied with food, cloths, tea, *bidies* and shoes. The conditions of contract are not uniform but vary from person to person.

Bhagia System

The Bhagia system of labour is prevalent in the district. Under this system a share in the farm produce is given to the permanent incumbents. Sometimes the quantum is fixed. The share of the Bhagia in produce ranges from a fourth to fifth, or one sixth. A Bhagia is free to leave farmer at the end of the season. Ordinarily the period of employment is one year.

Casual Labour

Most of the land holders employ casual field labourers except an Adivasi farmer who generally works himself with the members of his family. The Adivasi farmer employs labourers when he has big holding. There is sometimes a general shortage of agricultural labourers in the district and it is made good by Adivasi labourers of surrounding districts. The shortage is felt in Palanpur-Vadgam and Kankrej talukas. The total number of agricultural labourers in the district increased from 25,061 in 1961 to 63,590 in 1971.

Administration of Other Sources of Revenue

REGISTRATION

Registration of Documents

In the Palanpur Agency by Resolution No. 7587 dated 13th November, 1875, the Rules for the Registration of Bonds, etc., were sanctioned with the addition of the following simple definition of immovable and movable property. Immovable property included land, buildings and any rights or benefits arising from

1 Palanpur Agency Directory, Vol. VI, Section II, page 19.



land. Movable property included crops, grass, standing timber and any other description of property save immovables. Rules for the Registration of deeds and documents were also framed. These Rules were revised by the Government of India, Foreign Department Notification No. 2859 I. A. dated 19th June, 1903. In Palanpur Agency they came into force from 1st January, 1912. The Assistant Political Agent and two Deputy Assistant Political Agents were appointed as the Registrars in the Palanpur Agency for civil powers and Thandars and Petty Jurisdictional Talukdars were treated as the Sub-Registrars for civil powers for their respective thana circles and petty Estates. In the Radhanpur State, the Randhanpur State Registration Act of Vikram Samvat 1948 was enacted. It was introduced in the State in 1892.

At present registration of certain documents is made compulsory under section 17 of the Registration Act, (XVI of 1908) and optional in case of certain other documents under section 18. As a rule fees are levied for registration of all documents prescribed under section 78 of Registration Act by the State Government. Certain types of societies enjoy restricted exemption in respect of certain documents involving consideration upto a prescribed limit and fees are charged for the registration of documents for consideration in excess of prescribed limits. State Government has exempted documents of registered co-operative societies upto certain limit.

Registration of Marriages

Marriages under Bombay Registration of Marriages Act, 1953, Parsi Marriages and Divorce Act, 1936 and Special Marriage Act, 1954 are also registered.

Registry Offices

There are eleven talukas in the district but there were only four sub-registries in the district in 1972-73 at Palanpur, Deesa, Tharad and Radhanpur. The remaining talukas have been attached to these four sub-registries. The talukas of Vadgam and Danta are attached with Palanpur, Dhanera with Deesa, Vav and Deodar with Tharad and Kankarej and Santalpur with Radhanpur Sub-Registry for the purpose of registration work.



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The Sub-Registrar of Deesa holds his office at Dhanera on two days from second Monday to the following Tuesday in each of the months of January, February, November and December.

The Sub-Registrar of Tharad holds his office at Deodar and Sub-Registrar of Radhanpur holds his office at Kankrej on second and fourth Monday from November to June and second Monday from July to October.

District Registrar

The Collector, Banaskantha is the ex-officio District Registrar, who exercises the power of supervision and inspection over the entire registration staff in the district. Though the Sub-Registrars are appointed by the Inspector General of Registration, the District Registrar has, however powers to fill in the temporary vacancies and to grant leave. The Registrar has power to register certain documents under section 30 of Registration Act, and also deposits wills under section 42 of Registration Act. He hears appeals and applications preferred to him under sections 72 and 73 of Registration Act, 1908 against refusals to register documents by the Sub-Registrars under him. Under sections 25 and 34 of the Act he is empowered to condone delays in presentation of documents and appearance of executants, provided the delay does not exceed four months and directs such documents to be registered on payment of a fine not exceeding ten times the proper registration fees. He is also competent to order refund in the case of surcharges and to grant full or partial remission of the safe custody fees in suitable cases. Under section 42 of the Act, a will or codicil may be deposited in a sealed cover and may be got registered at the cost of party desiring it after the depositor's death. He is also authorised to record and register births and deaths under the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, (VI of 1886).

The Sub--Registrar

The main functions of the Sub-Registrar are to register documents and marriages under the Bombay Marriage Act 1953 and Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 and keep a record of all the documents registered and to send to officers concerned extracts from documents affecting immovable property in respect of which a record of rights is maintained.



The Sub-Registrar working at Headquarters has the powers of solemnising marriages under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 and to register birth and deaths under the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1886.

The Headquarters Sub-Registrar at Palanpur assists the District Registrar in the administration work of Registration Department and in adjudication of documents impounded under section 33 of Bombay Stamp Act, 1958 and also adjudication of cases under section 31 and refund of spoiled stamps under Chapter-V of the Bombay Stamp Act, 1958.

Income and Expenditure

In the year 1972--73 the annual income of the Registration Department in the Banaskantha district was Rs. 1,62,783-00 and the annual expenditure was Rs. 45,148.00. The copying of documents is done by hand in all the offices. In all 5,221 documents were registered in the district in the year 1973. Out of these documents 5,093 documents were compulsory documents and were of the aggregate value of Rs. 1,94,13,964. Moreover 80 documents fell under the category of optional registration and were of the aggregate value of Rs. 28,001. The wills numbered 48 in all.

STAMPS

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In the Radhanpur State the Stamp Act of 1917 was introduced by Notification No. 50 of 12-9-1917.¹ In the Palanpur State also the Stamps and registration contributed to Rs. 43,796 in 1944-45².

The Superintendent of Stamps, Ahmadabad is the authority controlling the supply and sales of non-postal stamps at present. In the Banaskantha district, the Collector as the administrative head of the district, is in-charge of the entire work relating to the stamps. He has to regulate the sale of stamps and ensure collection of stamp duties. As there is no treasurer in the treasury, the work of sale of stamps to vendors and to the public is done by a Stamp Senior Clerk under the direct supervision of the Treasury Officer. He is in-charge of the local depot at Palanpur and is responsible for the

1. *Administration Report of Radhanpur State for the year 1944-45.*
2. *Summary Report of the Administration of Palanpur State, 1944-45.*



maintenance of the stock of stamps, their distribution to the branch depots in the district and sale to the public. Refund of the value of unused, spoiled and obsolete stamps is not within the competence of the Treasury Officer, as these powers are not delegated to him, after the separation of the Treasury from the Revenue Department. These powers are exercised by the Collector and the Deputy Collector. A branch depot which is located at every taluka headquarters, is in charge of Sub-Treasury Officer. As per Government Notification No. GHM/M/STP/068/54035-H, dated 13th January, 1969 all the Sub-Treasury Officers have been appointed as “Proper Officers” for the purpose of the Act and under the Rule 9 of the Bombay Stamp Rules, 1939 they are empowered to affix the special adhesive stamps on the executed documents presented for stamping by the public.

For the convenience of the public, stamps are sold not only at the district depot and branch depots but also at various other centres by licensed stamp vendors, who are appointed by the Deputy Collector. There are 20 stamp vendors in the district. The non-judicial stamps in case of instruments requiring stamp duty of the value exceeding Rs. 500 and the court-fee stamps exceeding Rs. 125 are sold directly by the Treasuries and Sub-Treasuries to the public. Stamps below these denominations are sold by authorised vendors. The Sub-Treasury Officers act as ex-officio stamp vendors at taluka places by virtue of their posts.

The total income realised from the sale of stamps in the district in the year 1972-73 (April 1972 to March 1973) was Rs. 8,94,009 for non-judicial stamps and Rs. 3,09,628 for judicial stamps and Rs. 2,79,609 for special adhesive stamps. The vendors were allowed a small discount which in the year 1972-73, amounted to Rs. 20,417.98 for non-judicial stamps and Rs. 1,984.27 for judicial stamps.

OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME

In order to meet the growing expenditure on developmental activities, the State and Central Governments have to augment their financial resources by tapping additional sources of revenue. The economy of the district also contributes substantially towards the revenues of the State and Central Governments. The sources which contribute towards revenue are Income-tax, Sales-tax, Taxes on Motor Vehicles, State Excise, Central Excise, etc. These are briefly examined below :



SALES TAX

A fiscal policy for economic growth and simultaneous greater equality of income and wealth distribution must be designed to tap resources which are either ill utilised or unutilised. In this connection in a developing economy sales tax plays an important role. As a source of revenue, sales tax occupies a distinct position in the tax structure. It is not only productive from the point of view of revenue but has the additional merit of flexibility. By changing the coverage and rates of tax, the yield can be adjusted to the revenue needs of the State. Prior to Independence, sales tax does not seem to have been introduced in any of the States of Banaskantha district. However, in Palanpur State the Sale of Goods Act was passed in 1944-45.

The Bombay Sales Tax Act, 1959 was adopted and modified by the Gujarat Adaptation of Laws (State and Concurrent subjects) Order, 1960 and extended to all the districts of the State as per section 88 of the Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960. Several amendments were made to this Act relating to imposition of tax on kerosene, increasing the rate of tax on certain items, levy of purchase tax on sugar-cane, extending the levy of sales tax on certain goods, etc. This Act with the amendments, as made from time to time, remained in force upto 5th May, 1970. It was repealed by the Gujarat Sales Tax Act, 1969 which came into effect from 6th May, 1970. The system of taxation under the Bombay Sales Act, 1959 was a composite system combining first point tax to be paid by manufacturers, processors and importers with general sales tax to be paid at the last wholesale or semi-wholesale stage and a retailer turnover tax at the retail stage.

In June, 1967 Government constituted a Sales Tax Inquiry Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Maldevji Odedra to make recommendations on (a) the system and the rationalisation of the structure of sales tax ; (b) simplification of the procedure; (c) measures to be taken for removing the hardships to dealers, and (d) improving the qauality of the administrative system and personnel. While making the recommendations, the Committee was required to give due regard to (a) the revenue requirements of the State and (b) control of avoidance and evasion of tax. The Committee submitted its report in June, 1968 and the Sales Tax Act at present operating in the State is based mainly on the recommendations of this Committee. The system recommended by the Odedra Committee is in essence similar to the system prevalent under the Bombay Sales Tax Act, 1959. The



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system of taxation recommended was to levy tax (i) at a single point ; first stage, that is, sales tax on goods covered by Schedule II Part A (ii) at a single point last stage, that is general sales tax on goods covered by the Schedule II-Part B and (iii) tax at both the stages that is first stages sales tax and last stage general sales tax on goods specified in Schedule III. The goods specified in Schedule I to the Act are exempted from levy of tax on sale or purchase.

An additional tax on the sale or purchase of goods liable to tax under the aforesaid Act viz; Gujarat Sales Tax Act, 1969 has been levied at the rate of 2 per cent on the tax payable by the dealer.

Sales Tax on Motor Spirit

The tax on the sale of motor spirit is levied under the Bombay Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation Act, 1958, which was adapted by the Gujarat Adaptation of Laws (State and Concurrent subjects) Order, 1960 and extended to all the districts of the State as per section 88 of the Bombay Re-organisation Act, 1960. Section 5 of this Act specifies that there shall be levied and collected a tax on the sale of motor spirit at such rate or rates (not exceeding 20 per cent of the value of the sales of such motor spirit) as may be prescribed and that different rates may be prescribed for different kinds of motor spirit. Accordingly, under Rule 14 of the Bombay Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation Rules, the tax has been levied on various kinds of motor spirit at the following rates.

<i>Kinds of Motor Spirit</i>	<i>Rates of Tax</i>
1 High speed diesel oil	8 Paise per litre
2 Vapourising oil	9 Paise per litre
3 Aviation motor spirit	7 Paise per litre
4 Any other kind of motor spirit	18 Paise per litre

Central Sales Tax

The Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 provides for the levy, collection and distribution of tax on sales of goods in the course of inter



State trade or commerce. Under section 8 of this Act, the rate of central sales tax is 3 per cent if the goods are sold to the Government or to a registered dealer on prescribed certificate. Similarly, the rate of central sales tax is 3 per cent or the rate prevailing under the general sales tax law of the State on the sales of declared goods as specified under section 14 of this Act, The rate of central sales tax on sales of goods others than declared goods, in the course of inter-State trade commerce is 10 per cent or the rate applicable to the sale or purchase of such goods inside the State, whichever is higher when such sales are made without any certificate.

Administrative Set-up

In the district Sales Tax Office is situated at Palanpur, district Headquarters and there are three Sales Tax Officers doing the work of assessment and administration by visiting different taluka places. The Assistant Commissioner of Sales Tax (Administration) has his headquarters at Palanpur. He is head of the range of a Sales Tax Offices located in Banaskantha and Mahesana districts.

Revenue Receipts

The revenue receipt of the sales tax for the year 1972-73 was Rs. 3,73,900 under Gujarat Sales Tax Act, 1969 and Rs 3,60,000 under Central Sales Tax Act, 1956. The number of registered dealers was 2,100 under the Gujarat Sales Tax Act, 1969 and 1,150 under the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956.

Most of the sales tax yield is obtained from towns of Palanpur, Deesa, Bhabhar and Radhanpur.

TAXES ON MOTOR VEHICLES

Tax on motor vehicles constitute one of the important sources of revenue. The receipts from taxes under Motor Vehicles Taxation Acts constitute about 13 percent of the total tax receipts of the State. The Motor Vehicles Department is responsible for the proper administration of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 and rules made thereunder. It also collects taxes on motor vehicles which carry passengers and goods by road under:

- (1) The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1958.



(2) The Bombay Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers) Act, 1958 and

(3) The Gujarat Carriage of Goods Taxation Act, 1962.

It also carries out in general the duties and responsibilities cast on it under the provisions of the said Acts and Rules made there-under.

Administrative Set-up

The Department is headed by the Director of Transport with headquarters at Ahmadabad. As per the reorganisation of the Department, the State is divided into four regions, each one being headed by a Regional Transport Officer. Thus, there are four Regional Transport Offices in the State, *viz.*, at Ahmadabad, Varodara, Rajkot and Surat. In addition to these offices there are seven sub-regional offices one each at Mahesana, Nadiad, Valsad, Bhavnagar, Bhuj, Jamnagar and Junagadh. The Banaskantha district is under the Ahmadabad Region which comprises the revenue districts of Ahmadabad, Gandhinagar, Mahesana, Sabarkantha and Banaskantha. The jurisdiction of the office of the Assitant Regional Transport officer, Mahesana extends over Mahesana and Banaskantha districts.

The collection of revnue realised for the Mahesana office for the districts of Mahesana and Banaskantha for the years 1969-70, 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73 are shown below :

Name of the Act. 1	Amount collected during the year (Rs. in lakhs)			
	1969-70 2	1970-71 3	1971-72 4	1972-73 5
1. The Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 ..	2.34	3.20	3.49	4.14
2. The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1958	43.29	50.56	56.81	64.30
3. The Bombay Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers) Act, 1958 ..	0.66	1.19	1.44	1.42
4. The Gujarat Carriage of Goods Taxation Act, 1962 ..	9.84	11.68	13.57	15.14
Total ..	56.13	66.63	75.31	85.00

Source : The Director of Transport, Gujarat State Ahmadabad.

From the foregoing table it will be observed that the revenue realised under all the Acts has increased between 1969-70 to 1972-73.



STATE EXCISE

In past in Palanpur Agency there were rules and regulations regarding salt, opium, Abkari, hemp, and Ganja. In regard to salt, Government Resolution No. 4706 dated 19th July, 1882 contained rules for prohibition of exports, imports, or sale of illicit salt in the Agency. The rules were laid down in the Agency Circular No. 209 of 1882. Free salt was issued to all the villages within a radius of six miles from salt line. Some talukdars got compensation from Government. In regard to opium, engagements had been taken from States in the Agency to prevent the cultivation of the poppy and illicit importation of opium. The rules for possession, sale and transit of opium framed by the Government of Bombay had been introduced in the States with the consent of the Chiefs. Under these agreements all States and petty Estates under this Agency were given the full duty on opium consumed in their respective limits. In and prior to 1878, the monopoly for the sale of opium in the Agency was annually farmed out to contractors by Government on certain conditions (except in the States of Palanpur, Radhanpur, Tharad and Vav, the rulers of which had the monopoly in their own hands), and each Talukdar or Jagirdar was paid his share of the opium duty by the Political Superintendent. This system was discontinued in 1878 and upto 1897 the practice was to give opium free of pass duty to the Talukdars who sold opium in their own circles and received the income from the duty for themselves. In 1897 the old system was reintroduced and opium contracts were given to petty contractors on a lump sum system. The Chief of the Palanpur State was the only person who received opium compensation from the Government. The Palanpur State on this account got Rs 31,500. The sale of opium in Palanpur Agency was about 7,988 lbs.

Abkari

The first, fourth and fifth class States had their own Abkari arrangements. They had adopted the central distillery system and all the offences were dealt with according to the provisions of the Bombay Abkari Act, of 1878 by their Magistrates. Among the smaller States Deodar, Varahi, and Thara had also separate arrangements of their own.



Hemp and Ganja

The States in the Palanpur Agency were allowed a refund of three-fourth of duty leviable on the drugs exported from British territory.

Custom Duties on Imports and Exports from British India

Transit duties had been abolished throughout Palanpur Agency. But import and export duties were received by the States. Their tariffs varied and Government did not interfere. For the purpose of Indian Tariff Act (XI of 1882) the States in the Palanpur Agency had been declared by the Governor in Council to be foreign territories

Apart from the Agency, in Radhanpur State the Opium Opiated and other Intoxicating Drugs Laws of 1931 ; the Abkari Act No. 1 of 1936 and the Salt Act II of 1890 were in force. In Palanpur State the excise revenue was derived from (1) the manufacture and sale of country liquor, (2) the sale of foreign liquors, and (3) miscellaneous receipts. The system of departmental distillation had been discontinued and the State had given a contract for three years from 1-11-1939 for a supply of distilled country liquor. The contract having expired on 31-10-1942 the period was extended for two years more.

After the merger, the rules and regulations of Bombay State were applied to territories of Banaskantha district.

In view of the prohibition policy of the Government of Gujarat, Excise or *abkari* revenue is not an important source of income. The Department is headed by the Director of Prohibition and Excise, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad. The Superintendent of Prohibition and Excise is the officer incharge of the administration of the department in the Banaskantha district. He is vested with various powers under the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949, the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930, the Bombay Opium Smoking Act, 1936, the Bombay Drugs (Control) Act, 1959, the Spirituous Preparations (Inter State Trade and Commerce) Control Act, 1955, and the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955. He has under him one Sub-Inspector of Prohibition and Excise. The State Government levies duty on the following excisable articles under section 105 of the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949.



- (1) Any alcoholic preparation for human consumption,
- (2) Any intoxicating drug and hemp,
- (3) opium, and
- (4) any other excisable article as defined in clause 13 of the section 2 of the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949.

In addition to the above articles, excise duty on medicinal and toilet preparations containing alcohol, Indian Hemp or other narcotic drug, opium, or narcotic is levied under the Medicinal and Toilet Preparation (Excise Duties) Act, 1955 by the Central Government but collected by the Prohibition and Excise and Department of the State and retained by the State Government. The total revenue realised from excise duty in the district was Rs 65,825 in 1970--71, Rs. 74,661 in 1971--72 and Rs 36,720 in 1972--73.

CENTRAL EXCISE

In the Banaskantha district there is only one range office with its headquarters at Palanpur. It is placed under the Class-II Superintendent of Central Excise, Palanpur. Under him, there are five sectors as follows :

Sl. No.	Name of the Sector	No. of towns/ villages	Name of the taluka
1.	Palanpur I " II " III	Palanpur-Deesa Dhanera-Danta Vadgam 749 villages	Palanpur-Deesa Dhanera-Danta Vadgam
2.	Tharad Out sector	127 Tharad 128 Deodar 55 Vav	Tharad Deodar Vav
3.	Radhanpur	1 town and 60 villages 86 villages 13 villages	Radhanpur Kankrej Santalpur
4.	Suigam	46 villages 8 villages	Vav Santalpur
5.	Asara	46 villages	Vav

A sector consists of a number of villages, which vary from sector to sector. Each sector is headed by the Inspector of Central Excise. The Excise Department in the district deals with excise duties mainly levied on tobacco, steel furniture, mozaic tiles, aluminium, etc. Such duties yielded a total annual revenue of Rs 6,29,696-43 in the year 1972-73.



CHAPTER XI—REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

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INCOME TAX

After the merger of the States and Estates this tax has acquired importance in the district. The importance of the tax increased with the onset of developmental activities in the district.

The tax is one of the most important direct taxes levied by the Central Government. Assessment and collection of Income-tax in the district is made by the Income Tax Officer, Palanpur, under the administrative control of the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner of Income tax, Range-V, Ahmadabad and Commissioner of Income-tax, Gujarat-V, Ahmadabad. The appeals on the specific orders enumerated in the Income-tax Act lie before the Appellate Assistant Commissioner or Income-tax, Ahmadabad Range-V, Ahmadabad.

The tax revenue is realised from oil mills, timber, grain, jaggery and potatoes.

The tax in each financial year is assessed on the income earned during "previous" year. From Assessment year 1974-75 agricultural income is included in the total income for purpose of calculating the rate of tax. From the statistics regarding collection of income and number of assessees the performance of the tax is revealed.

No. of Assesseees and amount of Tax collected

Year	No. of assesseees having income under Rs. 5,000	No. of assesseees having income above Rs. 5,000	Net Income tax collection (in thousand Rs.)
1960-61	407	974	582
1961-62	317	1,199	720
1962-63	723	961	900
1963-64	1,013	983	1,103
1964-65	1,407	1,129	1,020
1965-66	1,574	1,267	856
1966-67	1,678	1,331	954
1967-68	1,504	1,305	1,348
1969-70	1,503	1,636	2,105
1970-71	1,461	1,792	2,278
1971-72	1,919	2,303	2,685
1972-73	1,938	3,479	3,837

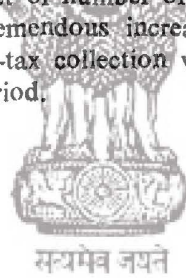
Source : The Commissioner of Income-tax, Gujarat-V, Ahmadabad-9.
B-469—35



The variation in the number of assesseees and tax collection from year to year is partly due to changes in taxable limit and partly due to ups and downs in the market conditions.

From the foregoing table it would be observed that number of assesseees having an income under Rs. 5,000. increased from 407 in 1960-61 to 1,938 in 1972-73 Number of assesseees, having an income above Rs. 5,000/- also increased from 974 to 3,479 during this period. Corresponding increase was also observed in respect of tax collection which increased from Rs. 5.82 lakhs in 1960-61 to Rs. 38.37 lakhs in 1972-73.

The percentage analysis reveals that there was almost an increase of 476 percent between 1960-61 to 1972-73 in respect of number of assesseees having an income under Rs. 5,000. Similarly corresponding increase to the tune of 3.57 percent was also observed during the same period in respect of number of assesseees having an income above Rs. 5,000. The tremendous increase, however, was observed in respect of net income-tax collection which amounted to 659 per cent during the same period.





CHAPTER XII

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

Police

EARLY HISTORY

The former *Gazetteer on Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha*¹ published in 1880, gives following description about police system in the Banaskantha region.

“For police purposes in the city of Palanpur and in each large town of the state is an officer, *jamadar*, with a certain number of constables., and in each village there is a police *patel* with a few watchmen, *chaukiats*. Small detachments of horse, *savars*, are placed in suitable villages to keep order through the state. The Political Superintendent has for this purpose at his disposal a body of 150 horse and 100 footmen, called the Palanpur levy subsidised by the state. The village watch are Rajputs, Kolis, Thakardas, and Bhils, and are usually paid by a grant of service, *pasaita*, land, supplemented, in some cases, with monthly cash payments, varying from 2s. to 10s. (Rs. 1-5). Besides the watch there is, in each village, a messenger, *havaladar*, whose special duty it is to prevent cultivators from taking away their crops before the state share has been fixed. The ordinary village police system is in force throughout Radhanpur. The headman of each village is a police *patel* who has under him a certain number of watchmen, *chaukiats* paid by grants of rent-free land. The village police *patels* and watch of each sub-division are under the superintendence of a sub-divisional police officer and all the sub-divisional officers are under the chief police officer, of the state. In some of the villages small outposts of mounted police, *savars*, are stationed. The village police system is in force throughout the smaller states. Each village has its police *patel* watchmen, and trackers, *pagis*, paid by grants of rent-free land and sometimes in cash and grain usually at the cost of the villagers. Small bodies of the Gaikwar's horse are posted in some of the more disorderly villages.”

1. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha*, (1880), p. 308.



Palanpur

The police force in the State comprised police Kamdar, fujdar Foot police, mounted police and village police. In the Dhandhar (Vadgam) mahal there were three chief constables including one for Chitrasani, two for Deesa and Aktala and one for each of the remaining mahals. The State had no military force. There was a *Sirbandi* force comprising 528 men including the Bargir Sowars. The city police was separated from the general police. A Subedar, a Drill Master, a Foujdar and an Inamdar were appointed to train a body of 100 police men to serve the city¹. The strength of the State police force including officers was 605 in 1945-46². It was headed by the State Inspector General of Police. A rifle squad was also added to the police force.

The Palanpur Imperial Police consisted of 92 mounted and 225 foot police including the Inspector of Police. The mounted police comprised 92 horse and camel *sowars*. The foot police consisted of one First Class Chief Constable and 4 Second Class Chief Constables.

Radhanpur

The police force was organised in 1896, which comprised unmounted police of all ranks below that of Head Constables. Besides performing the duties of guarding the villages, the State police was charged with executing miscellaneous duties such as carrying the treasury and post to the mahal headquarters.

A majority of the Acts and Laws in force in British India were introduced in the State and the spirit of many of them was followed to further the ends of justice.

The State police force was headed by the Superintendent of Police. He had under him 5 Chief Constables, 4 Head Constables, 6 Havalgars, 13 Naiks, 7 Lance Naiks, 101 Constables, 4 Dafedars and 37 horse and camel *sowars* in the year 1944-45.³

1. MASTER FRAMROZ SORABJI, *Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. I, 1908, pp. 38, 240.

2. *Palanpur State Administration Report* for the year 1945-46.

3. *Radhanpur State Administration Report* (1944-45), p. 12.



CHAPTER XII—LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

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DANTA STATE

The State police force was headed by a Police Inspector. He was assisted by Sub-Police Inspector, Jamadars, Havalgars, Police Constables, Dafedar and mounted police. Its total strength in 1928-29 was 150¹.

Tharad

The strength of the foot police was raised to 54 in 1919.

Deesa Cantonment

The Deesa Cantonment Police was administered by the Cantonment Magistrate, Deesa subject to the general control and direction of the Officer Commanding the Station.

The Cantonment police force was amalgamated with the Palanpur Agency Police force and was placed under the administration of the Political Agent, Palanpur.

Kankrej Thana

A force of the Agency Police was maintained in Sihori. Its strength is shown in the statement appended to the section. There were 6 outposts at Lunpur, Samau, Kamboi, Un and Khi-mana. The Head Constables had powers to send chargesheets direct to the Magistrate, but in other matters, he was subordinate to the Chief Constable of the Thana. For a group of 3 to 10 villages, there was a village Police Patel, whose appointment was made by the Assistant Political Agent. In each village there were two to four *chokiats*. They were also appointed by the Assistant Political Agent.

Deodar Thana

There were 5 out-posts at Tervada, Bhabhar, Soni, Chebda and Kotarvada. There was village police under the Agency charge. For a group of 3 to 10 villages there was a Police Patel whose appointment was made by the Assistant Political Agent, Palanpur. In each village, there were two to four *chokiats*.

1. Report on the Administration of the Danta State for the year 31st ending March 1929, Appendix IV.



Varahi Thana

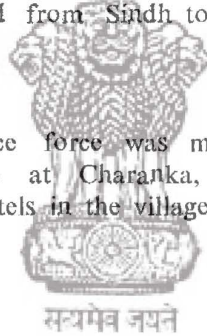
A force of the Agency Police was maintained in this Thana. There was one out-post at Inderva. The village police worked under the Agency charge. There were 6 Police Patels in this Thana. One *chokiat* was kept in almost all the villages of the Thana. The village police was paid from the village police cess.

Vav Thana

A force of the Agency Police was maintained in this Thana. There were two out posts at Suigam and Sunval. The village police functioned under the Agency charge. There were 10 Police Patels. In the village of Devpura and at Wada Bet, *chokiats* were kept at the expense of Suigam Thakors for the protection of travellers travelling to and from Sindh to Gujarat.

Santalpur Thana

An Agency Police force was maintained in this Thana. There were 3 out-posts at Charanka, Zazam and Morwada. There were 10 Police Patels in the village of this Thana.





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STATEMENT XII.1
Police Force in the States and Estates

Sl. No. 1	Category 2	Palanpur State 3	Tharad State 4	Radhanpur State 5	Deesa Cantonment. 6	Kankrej Thana 7	Deodar Thana 8	Warahi Thana 9	Wao Thana 10	Santalpur Thana 11
1.	Police Kamdar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2.	Chief Constables	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	1	1
3.	Head Constables	..	..	..	5	6	5	3	4	3
4.	Constables	..	..	147	29	25	24	14	14	21
5.	Foot Police	..	45	..	..	..	..	9	..	..
6.	Sowars	..	15	68	..	8	9	6	6	6
7.	Village Police	..	2,334	435	..	..	..	..	10	10
8.	Vajedars	..	100	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
9.	Dafedars	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	3	2
10.	Drill Master	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
11.	Bugler	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total	..	3,063	60	650	35	44	41	33	43

Source : MASTER FRAMROZ SORABJI, *The Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. 1. (1908), pp. 38-240.

CHAPTER XII—LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

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Functions of Police

The primary functions of the police are the prevention and detection of crime, maintenance of law and order, apprehension of offenders, escorting and guarding of prisoners, protecting Government treasuries and private or public property and prosecution of criminals. They have, however, certain other duties to perform such as inspection of shops selling explosives and poisonous drugs, extinguishing fires, giving aid to the displaced persons and pilgrims, verification of character, passports, etc.

There are, however, other functions devolving on the police under the Bombay Police Act, 1951, as adapted and applied to Gujarat State. These are : (a) prompt service of summons and execution of warrants, (b) obtaining information concerning the commission of cognizable offences, (c) prevention of commission of public nuisances, (d) apprehension of culprits, etc.

INCIDENCE OF CRIME

The following statement shows the incidence of crimes committed in the district in the years 1971 and 1973. It will appear that the crime graph has risen from 10,048 in 1971 to 10,822 in 1973. It is remarkable that not a single offence (1) against the State, (2) army and navy, (3) coins, (4) Government stamps, (5) weights and measures, (6) relating to religion, and (7) breach of contract, was reported during the period under review:

STATEMENT XII.2

Incidence of Crime

Sl. No.	Description of offence	Number of offence	
		1971	1973
1	2	3	4
1.	Against the State	..	..
2.	Relating to the Army and Navy	..	..
3.	Public Tranquillity	47	46
4.	Relating to public servant	17	9
5.	Contempt of the lawful authority of public servant.	24	27
6.	False evidence	4	4
7.	Relating to coins	..	..



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STATEMENT XII.2—Contd

Sl. No. 1	Description of offence 2	Number of offence	
		1971 3	1973 4
8.	Relating to Government stamps	..	..
9.	Relating to weights and measures	..	..
10.	Affecting the public health, safety, convenience, decency	50	102
11.	Relating to religion	..	..
12.	Affecting life	47	74
13.	Causing of miscarriage, etc.	3	..
14.	Hurt	490	692
15.	Wrongful restrain and confinement	25	35
16.	Criminal force	92	112
17.	Kidnapping, etc... ..	5	11
18.	Rape	8	5
19.	Unnatural offence	1	..
20.	Theft	343	417
21.	Extortion.. ..	..	11
22.	Criminal Misappropriation	15	7
23.	Robbery	24	34
24.	Breach of Trust	77	141
25.	Stolen property	8	10
26.	Cheating	91	81
27.	Fraudulent deeds, etc.	1	..
28.	Mischief	63	65
29.	Criminal trespass	190	167
30.	Offences relating to documents, trade or property	8	7
31.	Breach of Contract	..	..
32.	Offences relating to marriages	34	35
33.	Defamation	8	9
34.	Criminal intimidation, insult and annoyance	143	69
35.	Under special and other local laws	8,230	8,652
	Total	10,048	10,822

Source :

District and Sessions Judge, Palanpur.

POLICE ADMINISTRATION

Gujarat State

For the purpose of administration, Gujarat State has been divided into three Police Ranges, viz., Vadodara, Gandhinagar and Rajkot, each under a Deputy Inspector General of Police.

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DISTRICT GAZETTEER : BANASKANTHA

The Banaskantha district has been placed in the Police Range, Gandhinagar.¹ The District Superintendent of Police is the executive head of the police force in the district. His primary duties are to keep the force under his control properly trained, efficient and contented and to ensure by constant supervision the prevention investigation and detection of crime in the district.

At the district head-quarters, the District Superintendent of Police is assisted by an Inspector who is termed Home Inspector, and who works as his Personal Assistant. He supervises the work of the office at the headquarters during the former's absence. In this district, there is an officer of the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police each for the Local Crime Branch and the Local Intelligence Branch.

Police Divisions—The district is divided into Palanpur and Tharad sub-divisions with their headquarters at Palanpur and Tharad respectively. The Deputy Superintendent of Police, in charge of each sub-division, is responsible for all crime work within his sub-division. He carries out the general orders of the District Superintendent of Police and is also responsible for the efficiency and discipline of the officers and policemen in his sub-division. He has to make detailed inspection of police stations and out-posts in his charge at regular intervals.

Each sub-division is divided into one or more circles. In this district, there are two circles Palanpur and Tharad. A Circle, Police Inspector placed in charge of each circles, supervises and co-ordinates the crime work and also carries out supervision of bad characters and gangs.

In addition to the police headquarters at Palanpur there are in all 20 police stations and 32 outposts as detailed below

1. The District Magistrate has control over the District Superintendent of Police and the police force of the district. He decides the questions of policy and matters relating to the administration of law within the district, but does not interfere with such matters as recruitment, internal economy and organisation of the district force.

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STATEMENT XII.3

Police Stations and Outposts

Sl. No. 1	Taluka / Mahal 2	Police station. 3	Out posts 4
1.	Palanpur	Palanpur City Palanpur taluka Amirgadh Gadh	.. (i) Chitrasani (i) Iqbalgadh (ii) Kapasia (i) Samdhi
2.	Radhanpur	Radhanpur	(i) Bhandhawad
3.	Vadgam	Chhapi Vadgam	(i) Nandotra (i) Moria
4.	Danta	Danta Ambaji Deesa Agthala	(i) Motasada (ii) Navavas (iii) Mankadi (i) Hadad (i) Bhadath (ii) Samau (iii) Juna Deesa (i) Mudetha
5.	Deesa	Panthawada Dhanera	(i) Bapla (ii) Dantiwada (i) Vasan (ii) Nanawa
6.	Dhanera	Deodar Bhabhar	(i) Chibhada (i) Terwada (ii) Indarwa
7.	Deodar	Vav Suigam	(i) Mavasari (i) Morwada
8.	Vav	Varahi	(i) Santalpur (ii) Zazam
9.	Santalpur	Tharad	(i) Bhorol (vii) Valadar (iii) Naroli
10.	Tharad	Shihori	(i) Kamboi (ii) Un (iii) Thara
11.	Kankrej		

Source : District Superintendent of Police, Banaskantha District, Palanpur.

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DISTRICT GAZETTEER : BANASKANTHA

The sanctioned strength of Police Officers and men in the year 1973 was 1268, distributed as under: District Superintendent of Police 1, Deputy Superintendents of Police 2, Police Inspectors 3, Police Sub-Inspectors 38, Head Constables 296 and Constables 928. The ratio of the police to area and population shows that there was one policeman to 8.24 sq. km., and 1000 persons in the year 1973.

Railway Police

The control and administration of the railway police in the district is vested in the Superintendent of Police, Western Railway, Vadodara. He functions under the supervision and control of the Deputy Inspector General of Police, C.I.D., Crime and Railways, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad. The sanctioned strength of railway police in the district is shown below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Police Station/ outpost	Police Sub-Inspector	Sanctioned Strength				Total
			Unarmed head constable	Unarmed Police constable	Armed Head constable	Armed Police constable	
1.	Palanpur Police Station	1	6	19	1	3	30
2.	Bhiladi outpost	..	..	6	..	..	8
3.	Radhanpur Police Station	..	13	40	1	3	57
4.	Santalpur outpost	..	2	6	..	..	8

Source :

Superintendent of Police, Western Railway, Vadodara.

Anti-corruption and Prohibition

With a view to eradicating the evil of corruption and for a more effective implementation of the prohibition policy of Government, a Task Force consisting of 1 Police Sub-Inspector, 1 Unarmed Head Constable and 3 Armed Police Constables has been created for this district from 1966 under the direct control of the District Superintendent of Police.

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Welfare of Police

Various facilities and amenities are provided at the police headquarters, Palanpur, for the welfare of the policemen and their families. These include—(1) *recreation hall*—here newspapers, books and periodicals and indoor games are kept, (2) sewing class one trained lady instructor is employed on a salary of Rs. 50 to impart training in sewing, (3) Bal Mandir is also being run for the children of policemen, (4) one cinema-projector for showing film shows, (5) text books are supplied to the children of the policemen from the Police Welfare Fund, and (6) expenses incurred by Police force for spectacles or for denture are reimbursed.

The Kotwal Scheme—The kotwal scheme has been adopted since 1st April, 1963. A kotwal is a servant appointed at the village by the Mamlatdar for maintenance of law and order in the village. The appointment of the number of kotwals in each village is decided by the Collector of the district in accordance with the scale and rules prescribed. There were 467 kotwals in the district in the year 1974. The Revenue Patel or the Police Patel is primarily responsible for the general supervision and control over the work of kotwal in his village.

Village Police—The control over the village police is vested in the District Magistrate, who may delegate any of his powers to the District Superintendent of Police. Each village generally has a police Patel, who is required to collect information regarding suspicious characters and send it to the police stations. He has to keep a strict watch over the movement of notorious characters under the surveillance of the police and give all the information he possesses about what is happening in the village, when the patrolling policemen visit the village. The number of village police was 1,133 in the year 1974.

Home Guards

The Home Guards organisation in this district was started at Palanpur in the year in 1950. It functions under the District Commandant, Home Guards, who has under him Unit Officers appointed by Government.



Home Guards cadets are imparted training in squad drill, *lathi* drill, arms drill, firing, use of bayonet and physical exercises. They are also trained in semaphore Morse signaling. When called on duty, they enjoy the same powers and protection as those of the members of the police force. Their functions consist mainly, of guarding public buildings patrolling, prevention of crime and assisting the police in their duties.

The strength of Home Guards cadets was 720 in the year, 1973. At present the units are located at Palanpur, Deesa, Radhanpur, Varahi, Tharad, Dhanera, Vav, Vadgam, Gadh, Juna Deesa, Thara, Suigam and Bhabhar and the expenditure of Rs. 1,02,262 was incurred during the year 1973.

Every cadet is paid Rs. 5 per day when on duty.

Gram Rakshak Dal

Gram Rakshak Dal established for the protection of rural areas is a body of men primarily organised for the defence of villages against dacoits and anti-social elements, and for protection of persons and safety security of public property in a village. During the time of emergency this organisation works in close co-operation with the police in maintaining internal security. Every person between the age of 20 to 50 residing in a village, possessing good health and character, antecedents and civic sense and educated upto third standard vernacular, is eligible for appointment as a member of the organisation. The District Superintendent of Police is designated the appointing authority and the training is imparted by the Police Head Constable appointed specially for the purpose. Every member of the Dal enjoys the powers, privileges and immunities of a police officer when called for duty. The members are given training in elementary squad drill, *Lathi* drill, physical exercises, use of rifle, arms drill, organising *naka bandis* in the villages, combating of dacoits and robbers and first aid to the injured. They are also encouraged to do night patrolling in their respective villages, both on their own as well as with the police. They are also mobilised when the village faces dangers like floods or fires or is attacked by dacoits, robbers, etc.

There were 740 villages, with 19,750 members and 824 Naiks and 835 Up-naiks in the Gram Rakshak Dal at the end of December, 1973.



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Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal

Similar organisation for women was started in the wake of the Pakistani aggression in 1965. The objective of organising this separate wing was to inculcate a spirit of defence among women and induce them to take part in protecting life and property in the village. During such emergencies as flood, fire, earthquake, etc. they give first aid to the injured and prepare food for the affected. To help in saving women from the clutches of anti-social elements is also one of the main features of the Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal. Any woman between the age of 18 and 50 with good health character and educated upto fourth standard, is eligible for recruitment. The District Superintendent of Police is the appointing authority. In this work he is assisted by the Honorary women organisers of this district. Members of the Dal are trained in elementary drill, use of rifle and cane elementary knowledge of law first aid etc. In this district the Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal had 224 members and seven Naiks and an equal number of Up-naiks in the year 1973.

Jails

JAILS IN FORMER STATES

There were two jails in the Palanpur State, out of which one was the Central Jail at Palanpur and the other at Deesa. There were 6 lock-ups in the Mahals.¹

In the Radhanpur State there was Central Jail at Radhanpur and 4 other jails at Sami, Munjpur, Varahi and Santalpur.²

ORGANISATION

Prisons in the Gujarat State are constituted under the Bombay Prisons Act, 1894. The Inspector General of Prisons Ahmadabad is the head of the Jail Department, and exercises, subject to the orders of the State Government general control and superintendence over all prisons, jails and the headquarter sub-jails in the State. The Jail Department functions under the Home Department at the State level.

1. *Annual Administration Report, Palanpur State, 1945-46.*
2. *Annual Administration Report, Radhanpur State, 1944-45.*



There is a headquarter sub-jail at Palanpur, where prisoners sentenced upto six months and undertrials from the talukas of Palanpur (including the town) and Vadgam, Danta and Deesa are kept.

The prisoners who are committed to sessions by the Magistrate or sentenced for a period in excess of a fortnight from the talukas of Dhanera, Tharad, Vav, Deodar, Santalpur and Radhanpur, and Kankrej are also transferred here.

In this district, there are eight taluka sub-jails each located at Deesa, Kankrej, Dhanera, Tharad, Vav, Deodar, Santalpur and Radhanpur. The Mamlatdar of the taluka is designated the Superintendent of taluka sub-jail and a clerk from his office works as a Jailor.

The sub-jail at Palanpur has a capacity to accommodate 139 prisoners. The total number of convicts and undertrials in the jail on 31st December, 1973 was as under :

Convicts		Undertrials		Detenues		Total	
Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
17	..	41	..	..	..	58	..

There were no female prisoner in the sub-jail.

PRISON DISCIPLINE

Prison life is well organised. Prisoners generally behave in a disciplined manner and any breach of prison rules and regulations results in the awards of various types of punishments to prisoners, such as : (i) cut in remission period, (ii) separate confinement, (iii) stoppage of canteen facilities, (iv) standing hand-cuffs, etc. However, jail offences committed in the Palanpur sub-Jail during the year 1973 numbered three only and were classified as : (i) hunger strike, (ii) theft, and (iii) breach of discipline. This led to the award of punishment of (i) cut in remission period to the



extent of five days (ii) standing hand-cuffs for two days and (iii) separate confinement for ten days respectively.

The prisoners in the sub-jail at Palanpur are trained for manufacturing durable cot-tapes. The value of such cot-tapes sold in the year 1973 was Rs. 3,040.08.

A small plot of land in the jail campus is utilised specially for the cultivation of vegetables by the prisoners themselves. During the year 1973, the income from the sale of vegetables was Rs. 3,283.23.

WELFARE OF PRISONERS

Though jails are considered penal institutions, the policy of the Government towards prisoners is not retribution or revenge but reformation and rehabilitation. Whatever may be the cause of a prisoner's entry into jail, the jail administration provides training so as to enable him, after release, to settle down as honest, decent and useful citizen of the community. With this end in view following reforms have been introduced in jails :

(1) grant of furlough and parole, (2) books are provided to prisoners for competitive examinations, (3) cultural activities like film shows are arranged in the sub-jail, (4) visitor's boards with the District Magistrate as Chairman, has been constituted for hearing the prisoners' complaints, and (5) appointment of a moral lecturer to deliver lectures on moral and social hygiene topics has been made for arousing ethical sense among the prisoners.

A visitors Board has been constituted for this jail and functions under the chairmanship of the District Magistrate, Palanpur.

Social Defence

To protect the society from the hazards of the anti-social elements, viz: the criminals, the juvenile delinquents, the adult offenders and the prostitutes, the State Government has undertaken a programme to prevent the commission of such crimes and cure such undesirable elements. This work is entrusted to the Social Defence Department which implements the following social legislations, viz., (i) The Bombay Children Act, 1948, (ii) The Bombay

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Probation of Offenders Act, 1938, and (iii) The Bombay Women's and Children's Institutions Licensing Act, 1956.

Remand Home, Palanpur

A Remand Home was started at Palanpur in 1963 to implement the provisions of the Bombay Children Act, 1948. It has a capacity to accommodate 30 children. It has programmes for the liberal education and craft training such as spinning, mat making and paper work for the inmates.

The children are admitted through the Juvenile Court. Their cases are tried by the Juvenile Court consisting of the First Class Magistrate and two honorary lady Magistrates.

This Home is declared as a "Fit Person Institution" under the Bombay Children Act. If there is no vacancy for committed children in a Certified School, the boys are committed to the care of the Remand Home. The girls coming through the Juvenils Courts, Palanpur, are kept in the Reception Centre for Women founded at Palanpur in the year 1959.

Staff

For the care, education, training and treatment of children, the Remand Home, Palanpur is staffed by the following personnel.

1. Probation Officer	..	..	..	1
2. Literacy-cum-Craft Teacher	..	..	..	1
3. Guards	..	..	..	2
4. Cook	..	..	..	1
5. Part-time Medical Officer	..	..	..	1

Every year about 350 children are admitted in this institution.

2. THE BOMBAY PROBATION OF OFFENDERS ACT, 1938

The Bombay Probation of Offenders Act, 1938 was in operation in the district upto August 1972. The office of the Chief Officer has been started since 1963 in Palanpur. The Chief Officer and the District Probation Officer conduct pre-sentence enquiries in respect of offenders and submit reports to the Court. Every



year 250 convicted persons are given benefit of the provisions of the Act. However, since September, 1973 Government has adopted the Central Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 which is now implemented in this district.

The establishment consists of the following staff.

1. Chief Officer	..	..	..	1
2. District Probation Officer	..	..	..	1
3. Peon	..	..	..	1

3. THE WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS LICENSING ACT, 1956

This legislation has been enforced in the district from the year 1959 to regulate the voluntary institutions established for the orphans and destitute women. However, no such licensed institution has been established in the Banaskantha district so far.

The Reception Centre, Palanpur

A Reception Centre for rescued girls and women has been started since 1958 in the Palanpur town under the scheme of Moral and Social Hygiene and After Care Programme.

It is located in a private building in the Moti Bazar area and has a capacity to accommodate 40 inmates. Since inception the centre has given shelter to 1,195 women upto March, 1973.

The Centre has been declared as a Protective Home under the Suppression of Immoral Traffic for Women and Girls Act, 1956, and is also declared as a Remand Home to receive girls under the Bombay Children Act, 1948.

The following staff has been appointed for the Centre :

1. Superintendent (lady)	..	..	..	1
2. Clerk-cum-Accountant	..	..	..	1
3. Medical Officer (Part time)	..	..	..	1
4. Peon	..	..	..	1
5. Watchmen	..	..	..	2
6. Cook	..	..	..	1
7. Craft Teacher	..	..	..	1



Judiciary

HINDU PERIOD¹

No information about the method of justice in those days is available and it appears from whatever stray instances available that the Sovereign's judgment on disputes was considered final. Yet cases which required investigation and the knowledge of law such as those relating to inheritance, money-lending and physical hurt, quarrels, murders, etc., were decided in consultation with the *Pandits* of religion and economics. Such scholars were known as *Adhikarnik* during the period of Valbhi Rule. They gave justice only after verifying the documented evidences and witnesses, and in the absence of which, method known as *Divya* wherein the accused was required to pass through the fire or to keep the fire in the hand, etc., were generally practised. *Pandits* of Nyaya Mandir administered the justice. In the villages, small disputes were generally settled by the Gram Panchayats and evidences are available to show that Surpanchs of Panchayats were appointed by the State.

MUSLIM PERIOD

“ The magisterial duties and criminal justice in the district were entrusted generally to the Kotwal, while civil disputes relating to property, inheritance, etc., were settled by Qazi”.²

BRITISH PERIOD*

The following details compiled from the *Palanpur Gazetteer* and the *Palanpur Agency Directory* throw light on the constitution of judicial courts in the Agency area.

Political intercourse between the States under this Agency and the British Government commenced in the year A. D. 1809 when agreements regarding payment of tribute, etc., were made. The anarchy

1. SHASTRI D. K., *Madhyakalin Rajput Itihas*, Part I-II, (1953), pp. 510.

2. PROF. COMMISSARIET M. S., *History of Gujarat*, Vol. II, (1957), p. 4.

*SOURCE:

(1) CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V, *Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha*, (1880), pp. 306-7.

(2) MASTER FRANROZ SORABJI, *Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. IV, (1919), pp. 1 to 69; *Summary Report of the Administration of the Palanpur State*, 1941-42, pp. 27-29.



and confusion which prevailed in the Palanpur State territory led to the formation of this Agency in A.D. 1817. The maintenance of order and suppression of crime were made by the six police and magisterial officers called *thandars* who were stationed at Tharad, Vav, Deodar, Santalpur, Varahi and Kankrej. These officers worked under the control of the Political Superintendent. These *thandars* exercised powers of the Third Class Magistrarte and heard suits upto Rs. 250. The Native Assistant Superintendent exercised authority over first three *thandars* and the remaining were under the Assistant Superintendent, who exercised the powers of a divisional and of a Second Class Magistrate. The Assistant Suprintendent could also award imprisonment upto one year subject to confirmation by the Political Superintendent, who committed cases to the Sessions Court in civil matters, they disposed of suits of any value. The Political Superintendent exercised the power of a District Magistrate and of a Session Judge in criminal matters, and heard appeals from the decisions of the *thandars*, the native assistants and from the chief who had limited civil and criminal powers. As a Sessions Judge, the Political Superintendent awarded any punishment, sentences of death and of over seven years' imprisonment subject to the confirmation by the Government. Except in cases cognizable by a small cause court or in suits relating to movable property, when he confirmed the award of the lower court, an appeal against the decisions of the Political Superintendent lay in the Commissioner, Northern Division in Criminal, and to Government in civil and Political cases.

सत्यमेव जयते

The jurisdictional powers of Chiefs of States and estates included in the Agency were defined as under :

(1) The rulers of the two First Class States of Palanpur and Radhanpur exercised full civil and criminal powers and could try any person for capital offences except British subjects.

(2) The Chief of the Fourth Class State of Tharad, exercised criminal powers of inflicting sentences upto three years' imprisonment and fine upto Rs. 5,000, in civil matters he had powers upto Rs. 10,000.

(3) The Fifth Class States of Vav and Varahi had criminal powers of sentences upto 2 years' rigorous imprisonment and fine upto Rs. 2,000, in civil matters the chiefs exercised powers upto Rs. 5,000. The Jagirdars of Dhima enjoyed jurisdic-



tional powers of a Third Class Magistrate and heard civil suits upto Rs. 250 in their exclusive villages.

(4) The Judicial Kamdar of Thara Jagir enjoyed powers of a Second Class Magistrate in criminal matters and heard civil suits upto the value of Rs. 500 in the villages of the two Thara Jagirs.

(5) The Judicial Kamdar of Deodar enjoyed powers of a Sixth Class State and awarded punishment in criminal cases upto 3 months' rigorous imprisonment and fine of Rs. 200 and also heard civil suits of the value upto Rs. 500.

(6) The Talukdars of Deodar, Jerwada and Suigam were granted a limited jurisdiction; criminal powers of a Third Class Magistrate and civil powers upto Rs. 250 in their own co-shared villages, which they exercised respectively through Judicial Kamdars appointed with the approval of the Agency.

(7) The four Thana Circles of Kankrej, Deodar, Varahi and Santalpur had criminal powers of a Second Class Magistrate and civil powers upto Rs. 500. The Aval Karkuns exercised Third Class Magistrate's powers.

Palanpur State

In the Palanpur State, there was complete separation of the judiciary from the executive. The process was started from 1919 and completed in 1939. There were the following courts : (1) Sessions Court, (2) Sar Nyayadhish Court, (3) Palanpur City First Class Foujdari, Nyayadhish Court, (4) Palanpur Second Class Magistrate Court, (5) Taluka First Class Foujdari Nyayadhish Court, (6) Deesa Second Class Magistrate's Court, (7) Deesa Nyayadhish Court, (8) Dhanera Panthawada Munsiff Court, (9) Dhanera Nyayadhish Court, (10) Panthawada Nyayadhish Court, (11) Gadh Nyayadhish Court, (12) Dabhela Peta Nyayadhish Court, (13) Bapla Second Class Magistrate's Court and (14) Gadhvada Nyayadhish Court. These judicial officers functioned under the Dewan.

(1) The Hazur Court had the power to hear all final appeals and had all extraordinary powers.



(2) The Sar Nayayadhish Court had the powers (a) to hear first appeals from both lower courts with the exception of Small Causes Court, (b) to hear Sessions cases and to pass sentence upto 5 years and in cases requiring higher punishment, sanction of higher authority was required, (c) in criminal matters to pass sentence upto 2 years' imprisonment and fine upto Rs. 1,000, and (d) in civil matters to hear claims above Rs. 2,000.

(3) The Small Causes Court had the power to hear simple money claims upto Rs. 150. Against its decision, an appeal lay to the Hazur Court.

(4) The First Class Magistrate's Court had the powers to sentence upto one year's imprisonment and Rs. 200 fine.

(5) The Divani Court had the power to hear claims upto Rs. 2,000.

(6) The Palanpur Civil Judge disposed of suits of any value.

(7) The Court at Vadgam, Deesa and Dhanera exercised First class Magistrate's powers and passed sentence of one year's imprisonment and Rs. 200 fine in criminal matters and heard claims upto Rs. 1,000 and power to execute civil decrees upto that amount in case of civil suits. The Deesa Civil Judge disposed of civil suits upto Rs. 1,000 and the Dhanera Civil Judge upto Rs. 500. Appeals from these two courts lay to the courts of Civil and Criminal Judges of Palanpur.

(8) The Gadhi Court had the powers of a Second Class Magistrate and awarded 3 months' imprisonment and Rs. 50 fine in criminal matters and heard claims upto Rs. 50 in civil matters.

(9) The Bapla Court awarded sentence upto 2 months' imprisonment in criminal matters and heard claims upto Rs. 50 in civil matters.

Radhanpur State

(1) The Hazur Court exercised all the powers of a High Court in appeal and revision. From the High Court a final appeal lay to the Nawab.



(2) The court of the Sar Nyayadhish had powers of a Sessions Judge and District Magistrate and had the powers to hear small cause suits upto Rs. 100 within Radhanpur, Balodhan mahal. The Courts of the Munsiff's at Radhanpur, Vaid, and Balodhan exercised all the powers of a First Class Magistrate.

(3) The Civil Court (*divani adalat*) had full civil powers and foudari court tried all offences punishable with imprisonment for fourteen years, impose any amount of fine and whip upto sixty stripes. There was a criminal court at Balodhan which imposed sentences upto sixty stripes.

(4) The Court of the *Thandar* at Balodhan had the powers of Third Class Magistrate.

(5) The Court of the Revenue *Adhikari* was empowered to exercise First Class Magistrate's power in revenue matters only and of hearing appeals against the decision of the *Vahivatdars* pertaining to revenue matters, and the Courts of the *Vahivatdars* of Radhanpur, and Balodhan exercised the powers of a Third Class Magistrate in revenue matters only.

Danta State

Criminal Courts—There were six original criminal courts in this State, one that of the First Class Magistrate's Court at Danta and four Second Class Magistrate's Court in the mofussil Divisions of the State, *viz.*, at Haded, Tarsang, Shri Mataji and Joita respectively.

There was a Court of sessions headed by a Sessions Judge at Danta. The criminal appeals from the decisions of Magistrates were heard by the Naib-Dewan, the first appellate court. The Dewan heard the Second Appeals and the final appellate powers were exercised by Mehekama Khas, the Hazur extra-ordinary appellate court.

Civil Courts — The State enjoyed full powers, both civil and criminal. Mahalkaris of different Mahals were invested with civil powers regarding money suits upto the value of Rs. 500. The State Munsiff heard all kinds of civil suits relating to landed property



and other rights as well as the suits for money transactions upto the value of Rs. 5,000 in original side. He was also some times specially invested with appellate powers to hear appeals against the decisions of Mahalkaris. The Naib-Dewan heard the civil suits upto the value of Rs. 10,000 in original side and also heard appeals against the decisions of State Munsiff. All kinds of civil suits above the value of Rs. 10,000 were heard by the Dewan in original side. The Dewan was invested with appellate civil powers to hear second appeals and the final appellate powers were exercised by Mehekama Khas, the Hazur extraordinary civil appellate court.

Tharad State

The Thakor of Tharad had the powers of First Class Magistrate and heard civil suits upto Rs. 10,000 in value. Residuary jurisdiction in the State was vested in the Political Superintendent whose court was the court of appeal from that of the Thakor.

The civil and criminal laws in force in British India were generally followed in the State. The Sar Nyayadhis in the State exercised the powers of a District Magistrate. The State Nyayadhis and the Bhorol Talukdar exercised the powers of a Second Class Magistrate and the Morwada Tehsildar, the powers of a Third Class Magistrate. In civil matters, the Sar Nyayadhis exercised full original powers of the State and heard suits upto the value of Rs. 10,000. The Nyayadhis and the Bhorol Talukdar entertained monetary suits upto the value of Rs. 500 and the Morwada Tehsildar upto the value of Rs. 250 in their respective circles. The Sar Nyayadhis in addition to his original powers was also empowered to hear appeals against the decisions of the Nyayadhis. In case of the Bhorol Talukdar and the Morwada Tehsildar, their second appeal was heard in the Tharad State's Hazur Court.

Varahi State

The chief enjoyed the powers of a Fifth Class State and passed sentence upto two years' imprisonment and inflicted fine upto Rs. 2,000 in criminal matters and heard civil suits upto Rs. 5,000. He exercised residuary jurisdiction.



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DISTRICT GAZETTEER : BANASKANTHA

Kankrej Thana

The Awal Karkun of the Thana was invested with the powers of a Third Class Magistrate. The taluka was under the supervision of the Assistant Political Agent, but in criminal matters it was under the District Deputy Assistant, who was the Sub-divisional Magistrate.

The criminal and civil jurisdiction over the villages of Thara, Adgam and Changa were transferred to the Thara Talukdars and the lands belonging to the Thakardas of Sadujivas were put under the Thana jurisdiction.

Suigam Taluka

This taluka was formerly under the Vav Thana and the *Thandar* exercised criminal and civil jurisdiction over its villages, but as Government decided to hand over the jurisdiction over the Bha-yati villages of Vav to the Ranaji of Vav, the Suigam Talukdars were given petty jurisdictional powers of a Third Class Magistrate which they exercised through their Kamdar.

Vav State

The Rana had powers of a Second Class Magistrate and in civil matters he heard cases upto the value of Rs. 500.

The Dhima Thakors were granted jurisdictional powers of a Third Class Magistrate.

Terwada Taluka

The Thakor was invested with the powers of a Third Class Magistrate and heard civil suits upto Rs. 250.

Thara Taluka

The Thara taluka consisted of two important Jagirs known as Thara Sardarsingji Jagir and Thara Jasubhai Jagir. The criminal and civil jurisdiction were exercised by the Thakors of the two Jagirs through their joint judicial Kamdar, who exercised Second Class Magisterial powers in criminal matters and heard civil suits to the extent of Rs. 500.

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Deodar Taluka

The Thakor exercised Third Class Magistrate's powers and awarded 3 months' imprisonment and fine of Rs. 200 in criminal matters. In civil suits he tried cases upto the value of Rs. 500.

PRESENT SET-UP (AFTER INDEPENDENCE)

(i) *Civil Courts*

District Judge—The District Judge, Palanpur is the highest judicial authority in the district and presides over the District Court. The District Court is the principal court of original jurisdiction in the district. It is also a court of appeal from all decrees and orders passed in the suits valued upto Rs. 10,000 by the subordinate courts. The District Judge exercises general control over all the Civil Courts and their establishments and inspects the proceedings of courts subordinate to him. He also exercises jurisdiction under the following special Acts, viz., the Bombay Motor Vehicles Act, the Land Acquisition Act, the Bombay Public Trusts Act, the Bombay District Municipalities Act, the Bombay Municipal Boroughs Act, the Bombay Rent Act, etc., as adopted and applied to Gujarat State as also the Indian Electricity Act, the Indian Telegraphs Act, the Indian Railways Act, the Representation of People's Act, etc.

Appointment to the post of an Assistant Judge is made whenever necessary depending upon the volume of work in the District Court. The Assistant Judge exercise both original and appellate jurisdiction in civil as well as criminal matters. He can try original cases, the value of which does not exceed Rs. 15,000. So far as appellate jurisdiction is concerned, he is empowered to try such appeals from the decrees and orders of the subordinate courts which are filed in the District Court and which may be referred to him by the District Judge. There is no post of an Assistant Judge in this district at present.

Subordinate to the District Judge are the courts of the Civil Judges, Senior Division and Judicial Magistrates First Class at Palanpur and the courts of the Civil Judges and Judicial Magistrates First Class, Junior Division in the talukas. The jurisdiction of the latter extends to all original suits and proceedings of a civil nature wherein



the amount involved in the subject matter does not exceed Rs. 10,000 in value, whereas that of the former extends to all original suits and proceedings of a civil nature irrespective of the value of the subject matter.

Besides the District Court, there is a court of the Civil Judge, Senior Division and Judicial Magistrate, First Class at Palanpur and other courts of the Joint Civil Judge, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrate, First Class, Palanpur and Second Joint Civil Judge, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrate, First Class, Palanpur. The latter has been established only recently (Dec., 1974). There are also courts of Civil Judges, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrates, First Class at Deesa, Tharad, Deodar and Radhanpur. Of these Courts, following are the linked and Circuit Courts.

Linked Courts

1. Deesa - Dhanera .. The Civil Judge, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrate, First Class, Deesa holds court for one week from Monday of 2nd week of every month for disposal of Civil and Criminal cases of Wav taluka.
2. Deodar - Sihori .. The Civil Judge, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrate First Class, Deodar holds court at Sihori for two weeks from second Monday every month for disposal of civil and criminal matters of Sihori taluka.
3. Palanpur - Danta .. The Joint Civil Judge, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrate, First Class, Palanpur holds court at Danta for 3 days, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, of the 3rd week for disposal of criminal matters of the Danta Taluka.

(ii) Criminal Courts

The District Judge, Palanpur is also the Sessions Judge of the District. As Sessions Judge, he tries criminal cases committed to his

Source :

1. MASTER FRAMROZ SORABJI, *Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. IV, (1919), pp. 1 to 69.
2. *Summary Report of the Administration of the Palanpur State*, 1941-42, pp. 27-29.



court by the Judicial Magistrates after preliminary inquiry and hears appeals against the decisions of the Subordinate Magistrates. He is also the Special Judge of the District and tries all cases under the Bombay Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947.

The Assistant Judge exercises the powers of the Additional Sessions Judge on the criminal side for the trial of sessions cases, criminal appeals and miscellaneous criminal applications transferred to him for disposal by the Sessions Judge. If the Assistant Judge is not invested with the powers of a Sessions Judge, he works as an Assistant Sessions Judge only. The Sessions Judge and the Additional Sessions Judge may pass any sentence authorised by law, but any sentence of death passed by them is subject to confirmation by the High Court. They can hear appeals and revision applications from the decisions of Magistrates. The Assistant Sessions Judge can impose a sentence of imprisonment for a period of ten years but has no power to hear appeals and criminal revision applications. The appointment of Assistant Sessions Judge or Additional Sessions Judge is made whenever necessary according to the volume of work in the Sessions Court.

The Bombay Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions Act, 1953 and the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1958 classify the Magistrates into two categories, viz: (1) Judicial Magistrates, and (2) Executive Magistrates. All the Judicial Magistrates in the District are the Magistrates of the First Class. They are subordinate to the Sessions Judge who may, from time to time, make rules or give special orders as to the distribution of business among them.

Executive Magistrates fall under the following classes: (1) District Magistrate, (2) Sub-Divisional Magistrates, and (3) Taluka Magistrates. All Sub-Divisional Magistrates are subordinate to the District Magistrate and the Taluka Magistrates to the Sub-Divisional Magistrates concerned subject to the general control of the District Magistrate. Their powers and functions are described in detail in the Criminal Procedure Code. Appeals from orders of the Executive Magistrates requiring security for keeping peace lie to the Sessions Court.

Law Officers—The Law Officer of Government functioning in the Banaskantha district is the District Government Pleader and Assistant Public Prosecutor. In the year 1973, there were 95 legal practitioners in the district.



Civil Cases—The following Statement XII.4 shows the number of Civil Cases classified according to : (A) the nature of suits, and (B) the amount involved in them during the year 1973.

Out of a total of 1,361 cases registered in the year 1973, those relating to money and property numbered 1,045 or 76.78 per cent. Of those, cases not exceeding Rs. 5,000 in value numbered 1,011, those above Rs. 5,000 but not exceeding Rs. 10,000 numbered 39 and those exceeding Rs. 10,000 numbered 38 whereas there were 273 cases, the monetary value of which could not be estimated. Out of 1,403 suits disposed of 353 were disposed of without trial, 200 were exparte, 9 were decided by admission of claim, 551 by compromise, and 277 after full trial. Three suits were disposed of by reference to arbitration and 10 suits were transferred.

There were 51 appeals (including miscellaneous appeals) pending at the end of the year 1972. During the year 1973, 87 more appeals were instituted bringing the total to 138. Of these, 90 appeals were disposed of leaving 48 pending at the end of the year 1973. Out of 90 appeals disposed of during the year, 1 was dismissed, 1 was not prosecuted, decrees of the lower courts were confirmed in 48, modified in 14, reversed in 24, and 2 appeals were remanded for trial.

Criminal Cases

In the year 1973, 10,827 offences were reported in the Criminal Courts of the Banaskantha district. The number of persons under trial was 26,858. Cases of 22,594 persons were disposed of 10,981 persons were discharged or acquitted, 11,394 persons were convicted, 213 persons were committed to Sessions, and 6 persons died or escaped. Of those convicted, 1,883 were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, 4,554 were asked to pay fine and 4,957 were released after giving securities.

In Sessions Court 91 offences inclusive of those mentioned above were reported during the year 1973. 9 offences under Special Acts were reported in 1973. Persons under trial were 353, of whom 140 were acquitted or discharged and 114 persons were convicted and cases of 99 persons were pending for trial at the end of the year 1973. Out of 114 persons convicted, all were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment including 7 for life.



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STATEMENT XII.4

CIVIL CASES

Sl. No. 1	Particulars 2	No. of cases 3
A—Civil Cases classified according to nature of suits, 1973		
1.	No. of cases pending at the end of the year 1972	1,547
2.	New cases instituted during the year 1973 : Cases relating to :	
1.	Money and moveable property	1,045
2.	Immovable property	138
3.	Specific relief	140
4.	Mortgage	13
5.	Others	25
	Total	1,361
3.	Cases revived and received otherwise	19
4.	Suits disposed of during the year	1,403
5.	Cases pending at the end of the year 1973	1,524
B—Civil Cases classified according to amount involved, 1973		
1.	Not exceeding Rs. 10	2
2.	Over Rs. 10 but not exceeding Rs. 50	11
3.	Over Rs. 50 but not exceeding Rs. 100	30
4.	Over Rs. 100 but not exceeding Rs. 500	487
5.	Over Rs. 500 but not exceeding Rs. 1000	202
6.	Over Rs. 1000 but not exceeding Rs. 5000	279
7.	Over Rs. 5000 but not exceeding Rs. 10,000	39
8.	Over Rs. 10,000	38
9.	Cases of which the monetary value could not be estimated	273
	Total	1,361

Source :

District and Sessions Judge, Banaskantha District, Palanpur.

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Nyaya Panchayats

Over and above the Judicial Courts, the Panchayat Courts are also established in villages covered by Gram Panchayats to try minor offences with a view to avoiding undue hardship and expenditure to the village people. The Nyaya Panchayats were first formed in the Bansakantha district under the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958, which provided for the constitution of a Nyaya Panchayat for a group of five or more villages. After the enactment of the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961, the Nyaya Panchayats are established also at places where there are nagar panchayats. The Act further provides for the creation of conciliation panch, whose main duty is to settle disputes between the parties. The Nyaya Panchayats take cognizance of and try suits, the value of which does not exceed Rs. 250. They try certain complaints under the Indian Penal Code, the Bombay Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, the Bombay District Vaccination Act and the Bombay Primary Education Act, 1947. In 1973, there were in all 90 Nyaya Panchayats in the Banaskantha district in accordance with section 212 of the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961.

Bar Association

The Bar Associations are formed to promote co-operation among members of the Bar. They are not registered. There are Bar Associations at Palanpur, Deesa and Radhanpur in the district and their membership was 49, 16 and 7 respectively at the end of the year 1973.



CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

In recent times the role of public administration has increased tremendously to meet the exigencies of planned development for the welfare State. The activities now undertaken by the State and Central Governments are so multifarious, diverse and varied in character, that a number of departments which did not exist or play any significant role in the past, have been set-up since Independence for implementing the development scheme under the Five Year Plans. The activities of some of the departments have penetrated into the nook and corner of the rural areas of the district also. Thus, a sizeable proportion of the population of rural areas have also been brought within the purview of these development departments. The departments of Agriculture, Animal husbandry, Forests, Public Works, Industries, Co-operation, etc., have now gained considerable importance. The organisational set-up of the following departments, viz., (1) Agricultural Department, (2) Animal Husbandry Department, (3) Forest Department, (4) Public Works Department, (5) Co-operation Department, (6) Industries Department, (7) Office of the District Information Officer and (8) Office of the District Statistical Officer are dealt with in this chapter in detail.

THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

The District Agricultural Officer is in charge of the agricultural activities in this district. He is responsible technically to the Superintending Agricultural Officer, Vadodara and administratively to the District Development Officer, Banaskantha. He is assisted in his work by one Agricultural Officer, Agricultural Supervisors and Agricultural Assistants. The Agricultural Officer is in charge of the Taluka Seed Multiplication Farms in the district. There are four Agricultural Supervisors to help the District Agricultural Officer in carrying out different activities. Besides, seventeen Agricultural Supervisors, of whom eleven known as Extension Officers and six known as Package Extension Officers are working under the administrative control of the Taluka Development Officers.

The District Agricultural Officer carries out the following important functions : (i) implementation of development schemes under the Five Year Plans (ii) holding agricultural demonstrations,

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(iii) organisation of crop protection services and dry farming methods, (iv) supervision over agricultural activities in taluka, seed multiplication farms, (v) conducting trials of improved seeds and fertilisers and (vi) crop competition programme, etc.

There is a Sub-Divisional Soil-Conservation Officer at district level who looks after the contour bunding, field channels, *kotar* bunding and land-levelling activities. Besides, there is one Dry Farming Research Station at Radhanpur, which conducts research on main crops of the district, *i. e.*, Bajri, cotton, and Mug. Another Agricultural Research station at Deesa carries out research activities in the field of breeding agronomy and entomology. It also conducts research on Jowar, Bajri, pulses and groundnut. The Agricultural School at Deesa runs a certificate course in agriculture. These activities are conducted under the supervision of the Gujarat Agricultural University, Dantivada Campus, Deesa.

THE ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

The Animal Husbandry Department is concerned with veterinary and livestock activities. It looks after cattle wealth by improving their breed, giving necessary veterinary aid and taking measures against contagious and infectious diseases. For these activities, the district level organisation is headed by the District Animal Husbandry Officer. He is responsible technically to the Director of Animal Husbandry, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad and administratively to the District Development Officer, District Panchayat, Banaskantha. For the improvement of the breed of cattle, scrub animals are castrated and vaccinations are provided to check the spread of contagious diseases among cattle. Sick animals are treated in veterinary dispensaries.

The District Animal Husbandry Officer is assisted in his work by 10 Veterinary Officers and 21 Livestock Inspectors.

The district has 11 veterinary dispensaries, of these, ten veterinary dispensaries are in charge of Veterinary Officers and one is in the charge of Livestock Inspector. There are 22 first-aid veterinary centres and three artificial insemination centres in the district.



THE FOREST DEPARTMENT

Prior to the merger of States, in 1944-45 the former Palanpur State had started Agricultural Department. The Department under took the work of increasing the income of the State by taking up and improving allied schemes such as sericulture, lac cultivation, bee keeping and cattle breeding. In Radhanpur State six gardens were maintained by the Garden Superintendent. Grass *vidis* were also maintained by the State.

The Forest Department is headed by the Chief Conservator of Forests, who is headquartered at Vadodara. He is assisted by four Conservators of Forests placed in-charge of each Forest Circle at Junagadh, Vadodara, Surat and Gandhinagar. The Banaskantha district falls under the jurisdiction of the Gandhinagar Circle, Gandhinagar.

The Conservators have under them Deputy Conservators of Forests to look after the administration of the Division under their charge. They belong to the Gujarat Forest Service Class I. In the Banaskantha district the set-up of the Forest Department is as follows. The district is spread out in two Forest Divisions. Administratively this district is covered by two full-fledged Forest Divisions, viz, Banaskantha Division and D.R.V.P. Division, whose headquarters is located at Palanpur. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Banaskantha Division, Palanpur is assisted by Assistant Conservator of Forest whose headquarters is located at Radhanpur. He belongs to Gujarat Forest Service Class II.

The Divisions are sub-divided into small executive charges called 'Ranges' in charge of the Range Forest Officers, who are non-gazetted subordinate officers Class III. They are usually trained at one of the forest colleges in India at Dehra Dun or at Coimbatore. There are in all six Range Forest Officers in this district located in different forest ranges as under:

1. Range Forest Officer, Palanpur
2. " " " Amirgadh
3. " " " Ambaji
4. " " " Danta
5. " " " Radhanpur
6. " " (S. M.C.)¹ Radhanpur.

1. S. M. C.=Soil and Moisture Conservation.



Each "Range" is further sub-divided into "Rounds" and each round is managed by a Round Officer or Forester who is usually trained at the forest training classes at Chhota Udepur in the Vadodara district. There are in all 26 Foresters including 11 temporary foresters.

Finally, each 'Round' is sub-divided into still smaller rank called "Beats" and each "Beat" is managed by a Beat Guard who is also called a Forest Guard. A training class for Forest Guards has been opened at Junagadh, which trains Forest Guards from all the Forest Circles. There are in all 75 Forest Guards in the Banaskantha district.

The total forest area in the Banaskantha district is 1,230.51 sq. km. The main functions of the Forest Department are :

- (1) protection, conservation and development of forests, prevention of soil erosion and increasing of soil fertility.
- (2) the exploitation and utilisation of the forests so as to obtain the maximum yield. This implies framing of Working Plans for the scientific management of forests, and
- (3) The conduct of research into silviculture, utilisation and other problems affecting the regeneration and development of forests. The State Government has, however, laid special stress on conservation and afforestation schemes. The State is most conservative and reluctant in considering proposals for deforestation of the forest area for purpose of cultivation, etc. It has undertaken further schemes for afforestation of arid and blank areas, soil conservation, rehabilitation of pasture lands, preservation of wild life, etc.

THE ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WILD LIFE

There is no game sanctary in the whole district. Stray panthers are found in ex-Danta Jagiri areas. In addition to this wild asses are found in bordering areas of the Little Rann of Kachchh. No other game animals or birds are found in large numbers in this district.

The administration and management of wild life in the State rest almost entirely with the Forest Department. The Chief Conservator



of Forests who is the head of the Department, is also the Wild Life Preservation Officer, while the Deputy Conservator of Forests and Range Forest Officers also function as ex-officio Wild Life Wardens and Assistant Wild Life Wardens, respectively within their jurisdictions. Some members of the public interested in wild life conservation have been appointed as non-official Wild Life Wardens for their respective districts.

In the past hunting was controlled and regulated under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. It was applicable to the Government forests only and was therefore, ineffective for dealing with wild life offences committed in non-forest areas and lands of private ownership. It was the erstwhile State of Bombay which gave pioneering lead to the rest of the country by enacting an exemplary piece of legislation known as the Bombay Wild Animals and Wild Birds Protection Act, 1951, which was extended to forest as well as non-forest areas. After the formation of Gujarat State, this Act was suitably amended and promulgated as the Gujarat Wild Animals and Wild Birds Protection Act, 1963. The salient features of this Act are as follows :

(1) The act classifies the wild life of the State into different categories, viz., small game, big game and special big game, for each of which a separate kind of game licence has been prescribed. These game licences, which are valid for the entire State of Gujarat, can be obtained from the Wild Life Preservation Officer or from the Wild Life Wardens on payment of monthly or annual fees at the following rates :

				Monthly fees in Rs.	Annual fees in Rs.
Small Game Licence	..			10	20
Big Game Licence	..	..	..	30	60
Special Big Game Licence	..	..	..	Not being issued at present.	

The species permitted to be shot on these game licences and the bag limits prescribed are as under. :

- (i) Small Game Licence One bluebull, one wild boar, one hyaena, one wolf, hares and feathered game (no limit).



(The close season for small game extends from 1st, April to 30th, September).

- (ii) Big Game Licence One panther and one sloth bear
(There is no close season for
big game).

Certain harmful species have been declared as vermin and no game licence is required for shooting the same. However, a free permit from the Deputy Conservator of Forests is required to be obtained for shooting vermin. The following animals, birds and reptiles are completely protected :

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (i) Lion | (x) Sambhar |
| (ii) Wild Ass | (xi) Cheetal |
| (iii) Hunting Cheetah | (xii) Barking Deer |
| (iv) Tiger | (xiii) Black Buck |
| (v) Chinkara | (xiv) Flamingo |
| (vi) Four-horned Antelope | (xv) Pea Fowl |
| (vii) Rusty Spotted cat | (xvi) Pink-headed Duck |
| (viii) Pigmy Hog | (xvii) White-winged Wood Duck |
| (ix) Great Indian Bustard | (xviii) Crocodile |

There is no system of shoting-blocks in Gujarat State. Besides the above game licences, licences are also issued for trapping and possessing pet animals and birds and for dealing in trophies.

(2) It prohibits unsporting methods of hunting.

(3) It provides for the destruction of dangerous animals which have become a menace to human life or property.



(4) It provides for the compounding of offences against wild life out of court, failing which the offender can be prosecuted and punished on conviction.

(5) It provides for the setting up of a State Wild Life Advisory Board comprising officials and non-officials to advise the State Government on matters and problems pertaining to wild life. This Board works in close liaison with the Indian Board for Wild Life.

(6) It provides for the establishment of wild life sanctuaries.

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

This Department deals with (1) roads and buildings, (2) Irrigation, (3) electricity, and (4) ports. Their sphere of activities is quite distinct from one another. The first two branches work under separate Superintending Engineers, while the work relating to electricity is placed under the charge of the Chief Engineer (Electrical) to Government. The ports organisation is headed by the Director of Ports, with headquarters at Ahmadabad. After Independence, the activities of the Public Works Department have assumed great dimensions particularly after the launching of the Five Year Plans. However, during the princely States' regimes, though the Public Works Departments were organised in Palanpur and Radhanpur States, their activities were mainly confined to construction of State buildings including hospitals, which were maintained by these departments.

(1) *Roads and Buildings*—Activities in regard to roads and buildings cover the construction, maintenance and repairs of roads and bridges and Government buildings.

There is a separate division for roads and buildings at the district headquarters, Palanpur, under the charge of the Executive Engineer, who functions under the control and guidance of Superintending Engineer, Roads and Buildings Circle, Ahmadabad.

Under the charge of Executive Engineer, there are three sub-divisions each at (1) Palanpur, (2) Radhanpur and (3) Tharad. These sub-divisions are looked after by Deputy Engineers. The Superintending Engineers and the Executive Engineers belong to the



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Gujarat Service of Engineers, Class I, while Deputy Engineers belong to the Gujarat Service of Engineers, Class II.

Each sub-division is further divided into sections, each in charge either of a Junior Engineer, Supervisor or an Overseer. The posts of Junior Engineers have recently been converted into gazetted ones.

In 1973-74, the total length of roads under the Public Works Department, Palanpur was 852 km.

To deal with the work of preparation of plans and estimates, survey works of roads and bridges, etc., as also for collecting hydraulic data for the bridges, there is a Road Project Circle at Gandhinagar under the Superintending Engineer.

A sub-division of this circle is located at Palanpur which is headed by a Deputy Engineer, who functions under the Executive Engineer, Roads Project Unit, Gandhinagar.

The office of the Architect to Government, Gujarat State, Public Works Department, with its headquarters at Ahmadabad has no divisions or sub-divisions anywhere in the State.

(2) *Irrigation*—There is a separate division for irrigation in the district which is known as the Dantivada Canal Division, Deesa. This division is headed by the Executive Engineer, who is under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Project Circle, Ahmadabad. The Canal Division looks after the construction, maintenance and repairs of the Dantivada dam, canal system, the Saraswati barrage at Matarwadi, Patan and investigation of the Khakhhal Irrigation Scheme in the Banaskantha district.

The work of the division is distributed among five sub-divisions, viz., (1) Dantivada Canal, Chandisar, sub-division, Deesa, (2) Dantivada 'A' sub-division, Deesa, (3) Dantivada Canal Planning sub-division, Gadhi, (4) Dantivada Canal Irrigation sub-division, Patan. The sub-divisions are under the charge of Deputy Engineers and are further divided into sections.

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The set-up of Dantivada Division continues to be under the Public Works Department, even after the introduction of Panchayati Raj from 1st April, 1963. However, some minor irrigation schemes in this district are investigated and executed by the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Division, Palanpur. The investigation and design of minor irrigation schemes which cost more than Rs. seven lakhs individually are looked after by the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Project Division, Ahmadabad.

There is a Directorate of Ground Water Investigation, Ahmadabad, to deal with the work of drilling tube-wells. A sub-division of this Directorate functions at Palanpur under the charge of Deputy Engineer, who looks after the work of drilling tube-wells in the district.

For protecting the areas of the Banaskantha district, from ravages of floods, there is a sub-division at Ahmadabad, headed by the Deputy Engineer, who functions under the control of Executive Engineer, Flood Control Division, Ahmadabad. The Superintending Engineer, Flood Control Circle, Ahmadabad, looks after all flood protective schemes in the State. This organisation was set-up in the year 1969, following devastating floods of 1968.

Water Resources Investigation Circle—This circle which was created in February 1970, carries out investigation and prepares plans and estimates of the major and medium irrigation projects included in the Plans. Its jurisdiction extends to the entire State. This division headed by the Executive Engineer has five sub-divisional offices in the State. Of these, one sub-divisional office under the charge of a Deputy Engineer is located at Palanpur. The division looks after the investigation of major and medium irrigation schemes and collects hydraulical data in the State.

A River Gauging Sub-division, with headquarters at Vadodara collects rain and river gauging data at the following places in this district. :

Sl. No.	Name of Station (Village)	River.
1.	Runi	Rel
2.	Malpur	Balaram
3.	Bhakudar	Sipu
4.	Roho	Banas
5.	Deesa	Banas
6.	Dantivada	Banas



Moreover, there are following rain gauging stations in this district:

(1) Mavsan, (2) Naroli, (3) Mandol, (4) Bapla, (5) Jhazam, (6) Suigam, (7) Shri Amirgadh, (8) Chitrasani, (9) Pathwada, (10) Dantivada, (11) Chandisar, (12) Kanodar, (13) Pasuwadal, (14) Hadad (Self Recording R. G. Station), and (15) Sanali Ashram.

The rainfall data of these stations are being collected every year for the monsoon period only. There is an Engineering Geology Organisation headed by the Superintending Engineer, Geology at Gandhinagar under the Public Works Department for (1) exploration of foundations of dams, power houses, weirs, bridges, etc., and (b) construction material surveys for locating quarries for roads, buildings, irrigation structures, etc.

There are two Engineering Geology Divisions at Vadodara for engineering projects, irrigation as well as roads and buildings. One of them is administratively attached to the Engineering Research Institute, Vadodara for doing the work of projects, while the other is administratively attached to Water Resources Investigation Circle, Ahmadabad for the purpose of investigation of projects under the Five Year Plans. These divisions are headed by Geologist belonging to the General State Service Class I, with three Geologists (Class II) and Assistant Research Officer (Geology) in the former division and four Geologists (Class II) in the later one. The jurisdiction of these divisions extends to the whole State. Sub-divisions or sections are located at Dharoi, Kevadia, Surat, Rajkot, etc.

(3) *Electrical Organisation*—There is no office of the electrical wing in the district. The Deputy Engineer, Electrical Sub-division, Ahmadabad, is in the charge of this district and carries out electrical installation works costing more than Rs. 5,000. He works under the control of the Executive Engineer, Ahmadabad Electrical Division, who in turn works under the control of the Chief Engineer (Electrical) to the Government. The works below Rs. 5,000 are looked after by the Roads and Buildings Wing. The sub-division carries out inspection of medium pressure and high tension electrical installations, power houses, cinema theatres, etc.

(4) *Ports*—There is no port in this district.



Set-up of Roads, Irrigation and Electricity under the District Panchayat.

After the introduction of Panchyati Raj, roads below the category of National and State Highways, minor irrigation schemes and buildings whose activities pertain to the functions and purview of district panchayats have been transferred to the panchayats.

So far as the Banaskantha district is concerned, there is a Roads and Buildings Division headed by the Executive Engineer, Banaskantha District Panchayat, Palanpur. Under him, there are ten subdivisions to look after the roads, buildings and irrigation works including Check dam investigation and tube-well maintenance. Each sub-division is in charge of a Deputy Engineer who functions under the control and guidance of the Executive Engineer, District Panchayat, Palanpur.

The length of roads maintained by the District Panchayat admeasured to 2161.33 km. in 1973-74. From 1st April, 1963 the electrical installation and maintenance in the Panchayat buildings are carried out by the District Panchayat.

THE CO-OPERATION DEPARTMENT

State Level

The Co-operation Department is headed by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies with headquarters at Ahmadabad. This department works under the Agriculture, Forests and Co-operation Department at the State level. He (Registrar) also functions as the Registrar General of Money-Lenders and the Director of Agricultural Marketing. At the headquarters he is assisted by the Additional Registrar, the Joint Registrar, the Deputy Registrar, and the Assistant Registrars. As the Registrar General of Money-Lenders, he looks after the enforcement of Bombay Money-Lenders Act, 1946. In his capacity as the Director of Agricultural Marketing, he looks after the implementation of the Gujarat Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1963, and performs the functions of organising and constituting the regulated markets. Till February-1973, he also used to function as the Director of Cottage Industries and Industrial Co-operatives. However, a new Directorate for Cottage Industries and Industrial Co-operatives has been set-up since March 1973, and the Registrar, Co-operative Societies,



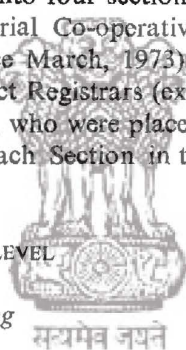
has been relieved of the responsibilities of Cottage Industries and Industrial Co-operatives. This newly created Directorate functions under the administrative control of Department of Industries, Mines and Power at the State level.

Reorganisation of the Department

The Department was reorganised in 1968 for the sake of economy and efficiency. Under this scheme, the offices of the Divisional Deputy Registrars at Ahmadabad, Vadodara and Rajkot were abolished and the powers exercised and duties performed by them were adjusted among the offices of the Registrar at the State level and the District Registrars at the district level. Further the functions of the District Registrars were also decentralised. The activities of the Department were divided into four sections, such as (i) Co-operation and Marketing, (ii) Industrial Co-operatives (which is placed under a separate Directorate since March, 1973), (iii) Money-lending, and (iv) Audit. Separate District Registrars (except Audit) were appointed for each of these activities, who were placed in charge of one or more districts. The set-up of each Section in the Banaskantha district is given below :

SET-UP AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL

Co-operation and Marketing



The District Registrar, Class-I, with headquarters at Mahesana is in charge of these sections and exercises jurisdiction over the Banaskantha district also. He also functions as the Deputy Director of Agricultural Marketing and Rural Finance and entertains proposals for the establishment of regulated markets and the declaration of market yards. At Palanpur he is assisted by an Assistant District Registrar, Class II, one Head Clerk, three Co-operative Officers and other staff.

Co-operation Department's set-up in the Panchayat

With the introduction of the Panchayati Raj from April 1963, some of the powers and functions of the co-operative sector were transferred to the panchayats and the services of the District Registrars were placed at the disposal of the district panchayats, though they continued to hold the charge of the subjects dealt with by



Government. However, with effect from September 1964, they were withdrawn from the panchayats, and instead, the services of Assistant District Registrars were placed at the disposal of the district panchayats to look after the subjects transferred to them. At the taluka level, extension officers (co-operation) of Taluka Panchayats look after the work of co-operative societies.

Money-lending

The District Registrars are entrusted with the enforcement of the Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946, and are designated the Registrars of Money-lenders, Class-I. One such Registrar with head-quarters at Ahmadabad supervises the work relating to the money-lending legislation in the districts of Kheda, Mahesana, Ahmadabad, Gandhinagar, Sabarkantha, Banaskantha and the Panchmahals.

An Assistant Registrar (Money-lending), with headquarters at Mahesana has jurisdiction over the districts of Mahesana, Banaskantha and Sabarkantha. He works under the guidance and supervision of the Registrar of Money-lenders, Ahmadabad, and is assisted by a Co-operative Officer, who works as the Inspector of Money-lenders.

The Registrar is empowered to grant or refuse licences to money-lenders on merits. In case of any breach, he is empowered to compound the offences under section 35(c) of the Act. He has to take final decisions in the cases of illicit money-lending detected by the subordinate officers working under him. The Assistant Registrar conducts inquiries of applications for licences and forwards them with his report to the Registrar who may either grant or refuse them on merits. The Co-operative Officers attached to him detect the cases of illicit money-lending, which the Assistant Registrar forwards to the Registrar for final disposal.

Audit

Section 84 of the Gujarat Co-operative Societies Act, 1961, provides for the statutory audit of every society, at least once a year, by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies or by any person authorised by him. The posts of one Special Auditor, Co-operative Societies, Palanpur, and one Special Auditor, Co-operative Societies (milk) at Palanpur have been recently created to carry out the work of audit



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of the co-operative societies in the district with the help of Sub-Auditors.

THE INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT

The main functions of the Department of Industries are to look after the large scale and medium scale industries, assistance to small scale and cottage industries, establishment of industrial estates, purchase of stores for Government Departments, enforcement of the Weights and Measures Act, control of raw materials for industries, issue of essentiality certificates, export promotion, etc. According to the established policy of Government, the department assists industrialists in securing land, water, raw materials, power and other requirements.

It gives them technical advice and also furnishes information in respect of raw materials, processes of manufacture and industrial potentialities. It conducts research and investigation in technical problems relating to industries.

Administrative Set-up

The Department of Industries is headed by the Commissioner of Industries. His headquarters are at Ahmadabad. He works in several capacities such as the Controller of Weights and Measures, Controller of Coal and Coke and Controller of Molasses. Besides, he is instrumental in implementing the industrial policy of the State Government. Under him there is one Deputy Director of Industries (Metric) at Ahmadabad, who is in charge of the Metric branch and is responsible for the enforcement of the Weights and Measures Act in the whole State.

Deputy Director of Industries, Mahesana

Under the Commissioner of Industries there are five regional offices, viz., Rajkot, Vadodara, Ahmadabad, Surat and Mahesana. The regional office is headed by the Deputy Director of Industries. The Banaskantha district falls under the jurisdiction of the Deputy Director of Industries, Mahesana, a Class I Officer. He is in charge of the industrial development activities in the region, which also includes the districts of Mahesana and Sabarkantha.

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Among the important activities carried out by the Deputy Director of Industries, Mahesana region, are the issue of essentiality certificates for the import of raw materials as well as capital goods. The issue of allotment certificates to steel processing industries and foundries for their requirement of steel is also attended to by him. As stated above, the Deputy Director of Industries is in-charge of the growth and the development of organised small scale industries in his region. These units have to face many problems and finance is one of them. The Deputy Director is empowered to recommend applications for implementing the hire purchase schemes worked by the National Small Scale Industries Corporation, New Delhi. He also investigates applications of small scale units for registration with the Director General, Supplies and Disposals, New Delhi and forwards them with necessary recommendations to the authority concerned. The Deputy Director looks after the works pertaining to the grant of subsidy on consumption of electric power by small scale units in his region having connected load not exceeding 30 British Horse Power. He is the controlling officer for administration of the Bombay Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1958 and the Rules framed there under. Under these Act and Rules, the Industries Inspectors collect fees for verification and reverification of weights and measures, inspect instruments of weights and measures, and stamp them if found correct. He prosecutes for breaches of the provisions of the Act. He also looks after the collection of quarterly production statistics under the Industrial Undertakings (Collection of Statistics and Information) Rules, 1959.

The Industries Officer, Palanpur

At the district level the Industries Officer is posted at Palanpur. The Industries Officer is in-charge of industrial development activities of the district. He is assisted by the Industries Inspectors posted at Palanpur, Deesa and Radhanpur.

The Industries Officer is charged with a number of functions which are more or less analogous to those assigned to the Deputy Director at the regional level. The most important function assigned to the Industries Officer is to look after the promotional aspect of industrial development in the district. To this end he has to render all possible help to the parties approaching him for advice regarding the industrial potentialities such as infra-struc-



ture facilities like water, power, land, communications, etc. He has to assist them in getting required raw materials, loans and machinery on hire-purchase system. Other functions besides these relate to the proper enforcement of the Bombay Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1958 and Rules made thereunder. In this work, he is assisted by the Industries Inspectors who are required to visit centres allotted to them. In addition to the work of weights and measures, these Inspectors assist the Industries Officer in investigation of applications for the import of scarce and controlled raw materials, power subsidy, registration of small scale industries telephone priority, collection of industrial statistics and information relating to industrial activities in the district. After investigation, the Inspectors submit their reports to the Industries Officer, who after ascertaining their genuineness, forwards them to the Deputy Director of Industries, Mahesana with his recommendations. The Deputy Director issues necessary permits or essentiality certificates on merit. Similar procedure is followed in respect of applications for loans under the State Aid to Small Scale and Cottage Industries Rules, 1935 or under the schemes operated by the State Bank of India or the Gujarat State Financial Corporation or for the hire purchase of machinery.

Power Subsidy to Small Scale Industries

With a view to encouraging cottage and small scale industries and to increasing their production through the use of electric power a subsidy scheme for electricity consumed by cottage and small scale industries is implemented by the Commissioner of Industries. Under this scheme all small scale industries except flour mills, (excluding roller flour mills), rice and pulse mills, photographic units, ice factories, ice cream, ice candy and ice fruits industry (excluding cold storage), laundries, units engaged in the repacking of medical and toilet goods, oil expellers and tailoring units, having a connected load not exceeding 30 horse powers are eligible for subsidy. The quantum of subsidy admissible under the scheme is the difference between the actual rate paid per unit consumed and (i) 3 paise per unit subject to a maximum of 12 paise per unit, and shall be payable for a period of ten years, from the date of its registration under the rules, if the industry is situated in an area with a population upto 20,000 or (ii) 6 paise per unit subject to a maximum of 9 paise per unit and shall be payable for a period of seven years from the date



of its registration under the rules, if the industry is situated in an area with population between 20,000 and 1,00,000 or (iii) 9 paise per unit subject to a maximum of 6 paise per unit and shall be payable for a period of five years from the date of its registration under the Rules if the industry is situated in an area with a population of one lakh and above. However, subsidy is not payable on the consumption of electric power exceeding 2,000 kwh., in any month, in respect of small scale industrial units and 2,500 kwh., in any month in respect of industrial co-operatives. Units desiring to avail of the subsidy are required to get themselves registered with the Industries Officer of the district concerned.

Since October 1967, the district Collector is appointed as an *ex-officio* Deputy Commissioner of Industries for his district. The functions and powers assigned to him include: allotment of factory sheds and plots in the Government industrial estates, holding of seminars connected with industries, formulation of District Master Plans and correspondence with all authorities in or outside the State directly with regard to the difficulties of industries in the district. The meeting of the district level committee is called under the chairmanship of the district Collector to solve the general problems with regard to infra-structure facilities such as land, water and power.

Incentives to Industrialists in Backward Districts¹

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The Planning Commission in consultation with State Governments has selected over 200 backward districts and Union Territories in the country which would be eligible for concessional finance from various financial institutions. In Gujarat State, the districts of Panchmahals, Amreli, Sabarkantha, Bhavnagar, Surendranagar, Kachchh, Bharuch, Banaskantha, Mahesana and Junagadh have been declared as backward.

Scheme for Outright Grant/Subsidy

The Central Government would provide an outright grant or subsidy amounting to 15 per cent of the fixed capital investment in new units having total fixed capital of not more than Rs. 50 lakhs. State Government would set up a committee which would go into

1. Government of India, Ministry of Industrial Development, Small Industries Service Institute : *Industrial Opportunities in Banaskantha District* (Gujarat State) Ahmadabad, pp. 1 to 3.



each case to decide whether it should qualify for 15 per cent grant or subsidy and also about the quantum of the subsidy.

Concessions by Financial Institutions

The Industrial Development Bank of India, Industrial Financial Corporation of India and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India have formulated the following proposal for assistance on softer terms for small medium projects such as-

- (i) Lower interest rate of 7 per cent. Industrial Development Bank of India has also reduced its rate of interest for reference from $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum in case of financial institutions/banks who would grant loans to small scale units in backward areas at the rate of 7 per cent.
- (ii) Extension of the period for the repayment of the first instalment of the loan from the present 3 years to 5 years.
- (iii) Longer period for the repayment of the loans i.e. 15 to 20 years, as against 10 to 12 years normally stipulated.
- (iv) 50 per cent reduction in the normal service charges.
- (v) In case of the IFCI and ICICI the margin of security has been reduced to 30 to 35 per cent from the present 50 per cent.

Special Facilities for Import of Machinery and Raw Materials :

- (1) Application for imports of machinery will be considered on a liberal basis from the industrial units in the small scale sector to be set up in a "Backward Area".
- (2) Indian nationals residing abroad will be allowed to import machinery not available in India, purchased out of their foreign exchange earnings abroad, if they set up small scale units in a 'Backwards Area'.
- (3) For raw materials units engaged in the priority industries can apply for making their import requirements for



raw materials components and spares in the same manner as for other new small scale units.

(4) The modes of financing against which licences issued will be 2/3rd in case of foreign exchange and 1/3rd in case of UK credit.

(5) Only those items will be allowed for imports as are permissible to the actual users under the imports policy in force.

New Strategy

As per the new strategy, it has been decided to cover all the towns with less than 15,000 population under Rural Industries project scheme. It has also been decided to take up 15 new projects of which 5 new projects have started during this year. Panchmahals and Kachchh in Gujarat have been taken up under this project.

Scheme for 15 per cent Central Outright Grant or Subsidy

This has come into force from 18th May, 1973 and will also remain in force for the remaining period of the 4th Five Year Plan or further as may be decided by the Government of India.

THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT INFORMATION OFFICER BANASKANTHA
PALANPUR ADMINISTRATIVE SET UP.

The important function of Government in a democracy is to keep the people informed of the work of their Government in various spheres of development and administration and enable them to take advantage of the welfare schemes sponsored by the State. It is also necessary that Government should be kept informed of the public opinion and the needs and grievances of the people. To perform all these functions District Information Office has been established at Palanpur from 1958 onwards.

Duties and Functions of Assistant Director and Information Officer

The District Information Officer stationed at Palanpur was in charge of the office but looking to the backwardness of the dis-



tract, and being a border district, it has been given special attention by the State. The Assistant Director of Information is in-charge of Information Complex at Palanpur. He with the help of District Information Officer performs work relating to information and publicity, mass communication and public relations. He acts as a link between the Government Offices and the press and keeps himself in touch with officers of various departments in the district. He prepares press notes and special articles about the development schemes and achievements of the various departments for the upliftment of the district. He also provides factual information to the press as and when necessary. He organises tours of pressmen to various development schemes and the places of importance in the district as and when considered necessary and organises press conferences to provide an opportunity to the press to get first hand knowledge of the subject to be covered. He maintains the relations with the press on behalf of the Government to avoid misunderstandings and unfactual reports.

Films

Film is the significant media of mass communications. As the majority of the people live in rural areas and as the literacy is low, the film is very impressive media of communication and educating the people. The Government has stationed one mobile publicity van at Palanpur under District Information Officer. It is equipped with 16 M.M. projector and generating sets. The van moves round the district and arranges film shows in the villages exhibiting documentary films prepared by the State and Central Governments. District Information Officer keeps the rural folk informed of the concessions and facilities offered to them by the State and Central Governments.

Information Centre

An Information Centre exists at Palanpur where books, periodicals, etc. bearing on the Five Year Plans and their progress are displayed. A senior officer has been appointed as Manager of the Information Centre. The centre is housed in a new building. It has also a library with 1,343 books and 16 M.M. projector. The centre also arranges exhibitions in the district.



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Vav-Tharad Unit

The State Government has undertaken intensive publicity through films in border areas of Vav and Tharad talukas of the district which are adjacent to Pakistan. An Information Assistant is in charge of this unit.

Broadcasting

All India Radio, Ahmadabad, Vadodara, Rajkot and Bhuj broadcasts daily in the evening a programme in Gujarati specially for the rural listeners. In order that rural population may avail of the facility, a scheme of Rural Broadcasting is in existence. A supervisor is in-charge of this office at Palanpur. Till June 1974, in all 577 radio sets were installed in district out of which 40 were electric sets.

Rural Radio Forums are also organised in the villages by the Directorate of Information for which a special officer has been posted at State level.

THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT STATISTICAL OFFICER, BANASKANTHA,
PALANPUR

The office of the Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Gandhinagar is the apex office concerned with the collection and compilation of statistical data, so very essential for planning and development programmes of the State. It has a statistical office in each district under a District Statistical Officer who is responsible for collection and improvement in the quality of the basic statistics at the district level. Some of the important activities carried out by the District Statistical Officer are : publication of District Statistical Abstract, collection of data pertaining to prices, progress of Community Development Programme and Five Year Plan Statistics, conduct of various socio-economic surveys, spot studies, evaluation of schemes, etc. After the introduction of the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 in April, 1963 he is placed under the District Panchayat. So far as the statistics of the district are concerned he acts as a link between Government and the Panchayats. The District Statistical Officer is assisted by the Statistical Assistants at the taluka level.



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CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

INTRODUCTION

The history of local self-Government has a hoary past. The powers of village councils in ancient days were probably more extensive. An outstanding feature of ancient Indian civilization is the development of community life. The villages themselves managed the simple affairs of the villages but the States being small, there was hardly any distinction between the Central and the Local Government. Some details of local self-Government institutions are available from Vedas and Kautilya's Arthashastra. The Government of the village was carried under the direct control, supervision and guidance of Gramani (Village Headman). The village council was permitted to spend a specified percentage of the revenues collected for financing its multifarious activities.

The institution of the village panchayat which existed during subsequent periods of history of India was not only an ancient institution but also one of paramount importance in culture and administration. Sir Charles Metcalfe paid glowing tribute to this village institution. The local self-Government bodies played an important part in the district since ancient times. At present following local self-Government institutions function in the district, viz., (1) municipalities (2) village or gram panchayats/nagar panchayats, (3) taluka panchayats and (4) district panchayat.

THE STAGES AND GROWTH OF LOCAL-SELF-GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

Pre-merger Position

The Palanpur and Radhanpur States had laid the foundations of local self-Government institutions by establishing municipalities. Both the States had established municipalities between 1878 to 1880. However, nothing was done at that time towards construction of roads, cleaning the towns and provisions of light. Up to 1948, i. e., till the merger of Palanpur State, the Palanpur municipality was financed by the ex-State Government. After the merger, when the Bombay District Municipalities Act was applied, the municipality started functioning regularly. Levy



of octroi started from 1950 onwards. Recovery of consolidated property tax was started from 1956-57. On account of financial stringency, no development worth mentioning took place during this period. A municipality was also established at Deesa during ex-Palanpur State regime.

Radhanpur Municipality was originally formed in 1902 under the Radhanpur Town Municipality Act by the then ruling authority. Afterwards it was one of the Departments of the native State in 1941. Subsequently this municipality was turned into an elected body. Out of 17 councillors, 9 were elected and 4 were nominated by the State from non-officials to safeguard the interests of small communities and 4 were nominated from the State officials. The President was nominated by the State from amongst the State officials while the Vice-President was elected by the members from amongst them. After merger of the State this municipality was functioning under the Bombay District Municipalities Act.

Progress between 1949 to 1960

It may be pointed out that there were two municipalities in the district as on 31st March 1958, one each at Palanpur and Deesa. Due to merger of Radhanpur and Santalpur talukas with the district during the year 1958-59, the municipality at Radhanpur was added to the district thus bringing the total number of municipalities to 3 as on 31st March, 1959. The area and population under the municipalities during the year 1958-59 are shown below :

Municipalities, their Area and Population, 1958-59

Municipality			Area (Sq. Km.)	Population (1951 Census)
1.	Palanpur	...	46.62	22,629
2.	Deesa	...	5.18	10,646
3.	Radhanpur	...	36.26	11,970
Total			85.47	45,245

Source :

Bureau of Economics and Statistics, *Socio-Economic Review and Statistical Abstract* 1957-58 and 1958-59 Banaskantha District.



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Thus, it will be observed that 87 per cent of the total urban population was served by municipalities and the total area under the municipalities was 33.2 sq. mile which was nearly 78 per cent of the total urban area.

The table below indicates the income and expenditure of the municipalities during the years 1957-58 and 1958-59 and their incidence per head:

Income and Expenditure of the Municipalities and Incidence per head

Municipality	Year	Income in Rs.	Incidence per head		Expenditure in Rs.
			Taxes in Rs.	Income in Rs.	
Palanpur ..	1957--58	3,95,777	13	17	2,77,860
	1958--59	4,55,094	14	17	2,95,898
Decsa ..	1957--58	4,01,037	19	39	3,28,061
	1958--59	3,91,803	14	25	2,03,591
Radhanpur..	1957--58	1,13,757	7	10	1,16,705
	1958--59	1,35,055	7	11	1,35,551

Source :

Bureau of Economics and Statistics, *Socio-Economic Review and Statistical Abstract* 1957-58, 1958-59, Banaskantha District.

Period from 1960 onwards under the Gujarat State

The State of Gujarat came into existence on 1st May, 1960. At the end of 1960-61 there were 3 municipalities with a population of 63,088. The average population per municipality was 21,029. The Democratic Decentralization Committee appointed by the State Government recommended formation of gram panchayats at places having population of 10,000 and below and nagar panchayats at places having population between 10,000 to 30,000. These and other recommendations were accepted by the government and on their basis the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 was enacted. As a result 3 municipalities underwent administrative transformation. The municipalities of Deesa and Radhanpur were converted into gram/nagar panchayats. Municipalities in Gujarat are now governed by the Gujarat Municipalities Act, 1963 enforced with effect from 1st January, 1965. The Act provides for elected councillors and reservation of seats for women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled



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Tribes. Every municipality is vested with functions relating to the provisions of water supply, drainage, lighting, disposal of night soil and rubbish, medical aid, care of the sick particularly at the time of out break of epidemics, extinguishment of fires, protection of life and property of the people and the registration of vital statistics.

The Act empowers a municipality to levy taxes on buildings, lands, vehicles, water supply and drainage, lighting, etc. octroi on animals or goods sanitary cess and special cess on education.

The Statement XIV.I given below indicates the number of local bodies from 1961-62 to 1970-71 :

STATEMENT XIV.I

Number of Local Bodies and Organs of Democratic Decentralisation, 1961-62 to 1970-71

Year	Number of District Panchayat/ District Local Board	Number of Taluka Panchayats	Number of Gram Panchayats	Number of Nagar Panchayats	Number of Municipalities	Number of Municipal Corporations
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1961--62 ..	1*	...	564	...	3	...
1962-63 ..	1*	...	574	...	3	...
1963--64 ..	1	11	574	2	1	..
1964--65 ..	1	11	574	2	1	...
1965--66 ..	1	11	589	2	1	...
1966--67 ..	1	11	589	2	1	..
1967--68 ..	1	11	589	2	1	...
1968--69 ..	1	11	589	2	1	...
1969--70 ..	1	11	608	2	1	...
1970--71 ..	1	11	608	2	1	...

*District Local Board.

Source :

1. Director of Municipalities, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.
 2. Development Commissioner, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.
 3. Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.
- Extracted from Census 1971, Part X-C-I Departmental Statistics and Full Counts Tables, Banaskantha District.

After reviewing the progress of organs of democratic decentralisation, it would be pertinent to analyse the role of municipalities and panchayats in details as they are the principal organs in the district.

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PALANPUR MUNICIPALITY

This municipality was established during State regime in the last decades of nineteenth century and was financed by the former ruler of the State. After the merger of Palanpur State, the Bombay District Municipalities Act, 1901 was applied to this municipality. At present, it is governed under the Gujarat Municipalities Act, 1963. The present area within the municipal limits admeasures 14.92 km. According to the Census of 1971 it has a population of 47,766 persons. Out of 25 elected members, two seats are reserved for women and two for Scheduled Castes. The municipality discharges its functions through the following committees, viz

- (i) The Executive Committee,
- (ii) The Power-house Committee,
- (iii) The Public Works Committee,
- (iv) The Sanitation and Public Health Committee,
- (v) The Water-supply and Drainage Committee,
- (vi) The Shops and Establishments Committee,
- (vii) The Appeals, Services and Consulative Committee,
- (viii) The Milk Supply and Prevention of Food Adulteration Committee,
- (ix) The Gardens, Recreations and Sports Committee, and
- (x) The Octroi Committee.

The Chief Officer is the executive head of the municipality.

Income and Expenditure

During the year 1971-72, the total income of the municipality including town was Rs. 15,61,503 and the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 10,38,378. The following table shows the income and expenditure of the municipality for the year 1971-72.



Sl. No.	Income	Rs.	Sl. No.	Expenditure	Rs.
1.	House Tax	.. 1,65,905	1.	Administration	.. 65,086
2.	Octroi Tax	.. 6,04,509	2.	Education	.. 1,40,658
3.	Other Taxes, fees, etc.	.. 5,49,832	3.	Health	.. 4,42,048
4.	Government Grants	.. 1,41,257	4.	Water Supply, etc.	... 3,90,586
5.	Loans, etc.	.. 1,00,000			
	Total	.. 15,61,503		Total	... 10,38,378

Source :

All India Institute of Local Self-Government, Ahmadabad.

Water Supply

The municipality has constructed nine tube wells in the town for water supply. For the storage of water it has constructed five tanks. There are four bores and one well through which water is supplied. The water is supplied through 104 water stand-posts constructed in the different localities in the town. In all 11 gallons of water is supplied per head every day.

Roads—The total length of roads maintained by the municipality in the year 1971-72, was 45.80 km. of which tar roads claimed 15.26 km., *pucca* roads 2.91 km. and *kuccha* roads 27.63 km.

Conservancy and Drainage

The municipality had employed 75 sweepers to clean the surface of 45.80 km., roads twice a day. The municipality had also employed 51 persons to clean the private latrines, public latrines and urinals. The refuse is collected through hand driven carts, tractors and a tanker. The refuse is used for preparing manure. The municipality derived an income of Rs. 2,632 in 1971-72 from the compost manure prepared from refuse.

Public Safety

The municipality maintains two fire-fighters and two water tankers. The staff consists of four drivers and six cleaners.



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Street-lighting

There were in all 1,887 lights. Out of these lights, there were 1,504 ordinary lights, 375 tube-lights and 8 mercury lights in 1971-72.

Markets

The municipality maintains one vegetable market called Lala Lajpat Rai Market. In the market, there are 32 stalls having one room and 16 stalls having two rooms. The rent is Rs. 8 per month for single room stall and Rs. 16 per month for double stalls. The income dervied from the market was Rs. 8,928 in 1972-73.

Gardens

The municipality maintains four gardens, viz., (1) Manek Chock Bag, (ii) Jahanara Bag, (iii) Kirti Sthambha Bag and (iv) Duddhiawadi Bag outside station.

Education

The municipality has taken over the responsibility of primary education. It runs 10 primary schools.

TOWN PLANNING

The Development Scheme of Palanpur was approved by Government on 11-12-1974.

Town Planning

The concept of town planning for providing a frame work for planned growth of urban area, has been introduced in the Banaskantha district, since post-Independence period.

Prior to Independence, the town planning activity in princely States of Palanpur, Radhanpur, etc., whose territories now form part of the district was practically absent. After the merger of these princely States with the then Bombay State, the Bombay Town Planning Act, 1915 was made applicable to the areas of



the Banaskantha district. But under the provision of this Bombay Town Planning Act, 1915 no Town Planning Scheme was prepared for any part of the district.

In order to remedy this situation, the Bombay Town Planning Act, 1954 was enacted. The new Act came into force from 1st April, 1957. Under this Act it was made obligatory on the part of every local authority to prepare a development plan of the area within its jurisdiction within 4 years from 1st April, 1957. After the formation of the Gujarat State, the need of a uniform legislation for all the three constituent units of Gujarat State, viz., Gujarat, Saurashtra and Kachchh was felt and the Bombay Town Planning Act, 1954 was therefore amended by the Bombay Town Planning (Gujarat Extension and Amendment) Act, 1967.

The Town Planning and Valuation Department in the Gujarat State performs manifold activities in the sphere of both the town planning and valuation of lands and buildings and provides a consultancy services to the Government. Since most of the local authorities have no technical staff of their own, the Department prepares development plans for such local authorities also.

Since the formation of Gujarat State, the development plans were prepared by the departmental authority for Palanpur, Deesa and Ambaji.

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Development Plan of Palanpur

Palanpur Municipality has declared its intention to prepare the Development Plan for the town of Palanpur, i.e., for the area within its jurisdiction on 28th January, 1964. With the technical assistance of the Town Planning and Valuation Department, the municipality has prepared and published the development plan on 5th July, 1967. After duly considering the suggestions received from the public on the published plan and making therein suitable modifications, the municipality submitted the Development Plan to Government on 27th September, 1968.

Development Plan of Deesa

Deesa Nagar Panchayat prepared the Development Plan for the Town of Deesa, i. e. for the area within its jurisdiction as on 12th April, 1965. The technical assistance was provided by the



Town Planning and Valuation Department. The Nagar Panchayat published the Development Plan on 13th March, 1969. After duly considering the suggestions and objections from the public on the published plan and making therein suitable modifications, the Nagar Panchayat submitted the Development Plan to the Government on 19th February, 1972.

Town Planning for Ambaji

Ambaji is a pilgrimage place having the famous Hindu temple of Goddess Ambaji. Since Ambaji is a gram panchayat, it is not covered under the definition of local authority defined under the Bombay Town Planning Act, 1954. However, Government has empowered the gram panchayat to exercise the powers of local authority for the purposes of town planning activity.

Accordingly gram panchayat had declared its intention to prepare the plan on 31st January, 1966. Due to some legal complications between Ambaji Development Trust and the gram panchayat, the work of development plan preparation is stayed by Government and in the meanwhile Government has appointed "Ambaji Mata Vikas Samiti" to look after the Development of Ambaji.

The work of the town planning in this district is looked after by the Deputy Assistant Consulting Surveyor to Government who is the head of the Ahmadabad branch office of Town Planning and Valuation Department.

The department is headed by the Chief Town Planner of Gujarat State, Ahmadabad. The Town Planning and Valuation Department in the State performs manifold activities in the sphere of both town planning and valuation of lands and buildings and provides consultancy services to Government. Since most of the local authorities have no technical staff of their own, the Development Plans are prepared by the department on behalf of the local authorities.

PANCHAYATS

Panchayats—If the attainment of political freedom has any meaning for the rural areas it should provide them with the means and opportunities for economic and social betterment. To achieve these objectives, the people must have their own organisation for



evolving and implementing rural development programmes which cannot be better fulfilled than through the institution of village panchayat. It is through village panchayats that village people can become efficient in seeing how village problems affect their lives and how they can be involved in appropriate group effort to solve village problems. The Planning Commission has rightly assigned a place of pride to the panchayats in the task of decentralising the local administration and in giving them the necessary scope for initiating planning and execution of schemes aiming at the welfare and development of the village economy. While operating through the people's local organisations, the programme simultaneously strengthens the foundation of democracy on which our constitution stands, by making the villager understand the significance of development and it makes him realise his position in this vast democracy. The establishment of village panchayats thus became indispensable for achieving around economic development and growth of democracy.

The Palanpur, Radhanpur and other States and Estates took no interest in revival of institution of village panchayat. It was after Independence and particularly after the merger of States and Estates that panchayats began to be established and legislation prevailing in the Bombay State was made applicable to the district.

The Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958

After the formation of bilingual Bombay State as there were different Acts prevalent in different areas, a new Act called the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958 was enacted. Under this Act, a district village panchayat *mandal* was constituted for the district, for exercising powers of supervision, guidance and control over panchayats in the district. In order that the representatives of village panchayats may have an effective voice in shaping the policy in regard to matters concerning village panchayats, seven to twelve members were elected to the *mandal* by Sarpanchs in the district from amongst themselves. The important features of the Act are : (1) reservation of two seats for women in every village panchayat, (2) constitution of gram sabha of all residents in the village who are entitled to vote, (3) establishment of a district village panchayat *mandal* for every district: (4) Secretary of a village panchayat to be a Government servant and to be paid



by Government, (5) training of village panchayat secretaries to be provided by Government (6) entrusting the work of collection of land revenue (including cesses) to village panchayats (7) payment of land revenue grant to all village panchayats in the State on an uniform basis at a rate not less than 25 per cent of the ordinary land revenue and not exceeding 30 per cent of the ordinary land revenue and (8) constitution of a group nyaya panchayat for a group of five villages or more.

Thus in the Act, it would be observed that Government had taken a number of measures to activate the village panchayats and training of rural people in the village administration.

Functions

The panchayats were given more powers and functions under this Act. They have been enumerated in section 45 of the Act and they fall under the different spheres such as :

- (i) maintenance of sanitation and health,
- (ii) maintenance of sanitary public works,
- (iii) maintenance of self-defence and village defence,
- (iv) spread of education and culture,
- (v) running of village administration,
- (vi) improvement of agriculture and preservation of forests,
- (vii) improvement of breeds and protecting cattle,
- (viii) revival and encouragement of village industries, and
- (ix) collection of land revenue.

After the formation of Gujarat State on 1st May, 1960 the concept of Democratic Decentralisation gained momentum. The State of Gujarat like other States of India also strove to achieve Democratic Decentralisation by introducing Panchayati Raj. The circumstances leading to the enactment of Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 and the subsequent development that has taken place are described in the subsequent pages.

Democratic Decentralisation

In the First Five Year Plan, the role of local bodies in the implementation of development programmes was emphasised. It indicated that the general policy of Government should be to encourage them to

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assume responsibility for as large a portion of administrative and social services within their areas, to the extent possible. As these local bodies depended mostly upon Government grants which were subjected to various conditions and restrictions, their activities were too limited to produce any discernible impact on the rural areas. As a result, the real object under-lying the formation of local self-Government institution was frustrated.

The proposal of the Planning Commission for the Second Five Year Plan stressed the needs for creating within the district, a well-organised democratic structure of administration, in which the village panchayats were to be organically linked with popular organisations at a higher level. In such a structure, the functions of the popular body would include the entire general administration and development of the areas, other than such functions as law and order, administration of justice and certain functions pertaining to the revenue administration. In this background Balvantrai Mehta Committee was appointed to go into the question of the working of Community Projects and National Extension Service. After detailed inquiries, the Committee came to the conclusion that community development could not progress without responsibility and power which would be possible only under a process of democratic decentralisation from a village to the district level. They further held that community development could be real only when the community realises its responsibilities, exercises its necessary powers through its chosen representatives and maintains continuous interest in local administration. With this object in view, they recommended an early establishment of statutory elective local bodies which alone could lead to effective rural development. They also recommended that necessary resources, powers and authorities should be vested in such bodies. In effect, the Committee recommended that if the experiment of democratic decentralisation were to yield maximum result, it was necessary that all the three tiers of the scheme, viz. Village Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Jilla Parishad should be started at the same time and operated simultaneously in the whole district. In May 1958, the National Development Council accepted that recommendations of the committee with regard to the "democratic institutions functioning either at the village level or at the block or taluka level or the district level and that the process of democratisation should be completed as speedily as possible. As agreed in the meeting



of the Standing Committee of the National Development Council in January 1958, the pattern of democratisation would be worked out by the State Governments in the light of their own conditions and requirements. As a consequence, the Government of Gujarat appointed a committee in July 1960, under the chairmanship of the Revenue Minister to study this question and to make recommendations. The committee submitted its report on 31st December, 1960. Their recommendations were incorporated in the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 which provided for a three tier system, viz., the gram/nagar panchayats which were already in existence at the lowest level, the taluka panchayats at the taluka level and the district panchayats at the district level. This democratic decentralisation came to be subsequently called the Panchayati Raj.

The Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961

The Panchayati Raj was ushered in the districts of Gujarat on April 1, 1963 when taluka and district panchayats providing the middle tiers of the democratic decentralisation scheme were formerly inaugurated. The introduction of the scheme which vests the elected bodies at all levels with wide powers and provides them with necessary funds and trained administrative personnel was completed with the formation of the State Panchayat Council on May 1, 1963.

सत्यमेव जयते

The Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 has been amended recently. In April 1973, the Gujarat Assembly passed the Panchayats (Amendment) Bill. This Bill sought to reform the institutional set up of the panchayats in the State, on the recommendations of Shri Jhinabhai Darji Committee. It provided for sweeping changes in the election pattern of panchayats. It provides for the direct election of village Sarpanchs instead of the present method of electing the Sarpanch by village panchayat members. It sought to do away with the practice of *ex-officio* and co-opted member of the panchayats at the village, the taluka and the district levels. As a result, the village Sarpanchs and taluka panchayat presidents have been automatically debarred from becoming *ex-officio* members of the taluka and district panchayats, respectively. This also affected village Sarpanchs who used to become *ex-officio* members of panchayats. The amended Act has provided more representation on panchayats to women and proportionate representation to Adivasis



and Harijans. Another significant provision in the amendment is for setting up of social justice committees at all levels to safeguard the interest of weaker sections of the society. These changes are incorporated at the appropriate places. In the light of amendment, revised statement of taluka panchayats and district panchayat pertaining to composition have been introduced.

The Gram Sabha

All adult persons whose names are included in the list of voters maintained for a gram, shall be deemed to constitute a Gram Sabha of the gram. A Gram Sabha has to hold annually at least two meetings, provided that the Sarpanch may, at his option and if required by taluka panchayat or district panchayat may call a meeting of the Gram Sabha. It has to consider annual statement of accounts, administration report, development and other programme of works and the audit notes and replies thereto and any other matter which the taluka panchayat or district panchayat, may require to be placed before the meeting of the Gram Sabha.

The Gram Sabha is required to carry out such other functions as prescribed in the Gujarat Gram Panchayats (Gram Sabha Meetings and Functions) Rules, 1964.

The Gram Panchayat/Nagar Panchayat

A gram panchayat is constituted for a local area, population of which is less than 10,000 and a nagar panchayat is constituted for a local area the population of which normally exceeds 10,000 but does not exceed 20,000. Such a local area may be a revenue village, or a group of revenue or such other hamlets forming part of a revenue or such other administrative unit or part thereof. The number of members of a gram panchayat varies from 7 to 15 and that of a nagar panchayat from 15 to 21. By the recent amendment, the Sarpanch is to be elected by ballot by the qualified voters of the gram from amongst themselves and the Upsarpanch shall be elected by the members of gram panchayat from amongst themselves and a nagar panchayat will elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman from its own members.

Provision is made for reservation of seats for women in the following manner :

- (i) Two seats where the total number of seats does not exceed seven,



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(ii) three seats where the total number of seats exceeds seven but does not exceed eleven, and

(iii) four seats where the total number of seats exceeds eleven, and one seat for a member of the Scheduled Castes and one seat for the Scheduled Tribes in every gram panchayat. In addition to allotment of one reserved post for the Scheduled Castes, more seats were allotted on the basis of their population in the gram panchayat /nagar panchayat. Provision is also made for the reservation of the members of the Scheduled Tribes on the population basis. In case of the nagar panchayat, for women following amendment is made. Four seats where the total number of a seats does not exceed eighteen a shall reserved for women.

Duties of a gram/nagar panchayat are specified in the Act. If the funds permit, the gram/nagar panchayats have discretion to take up certain other activities such as education, medical relief, promotion of social, economic and cultural well-being of the inhabitants of its areas and arranging public receptions, ceremonies or entertainments within its jurisdiction.

Statements XIV.2 and XIV.3 show the composition of gram panchayats and nagar panchayat as on 1st January, 1971.

सत्यमेव जयते



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STATEMENT XIV.2

Composition of Gram Panchayats as on 1-1-1971

Sl. No.	Taluka			No. of Gram Panchayats	No. of members appointed under Section 12(i) of the Gujarat Panchayats Act	Non-reserved seats	Composition						Non—reserved Seats	
							Reserved Seats					Non—reserved Seats		
							Women	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Total 6 to 8	Total 5 to 9	Elected Members	Nominated Members	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
1.	Santalpur	..	..	28	274	186	56	29	3	88	274	179	7	
2.	Kankrej	..	..	58	574	400	116	58	...	174	574	378	22	
3.	Vav	...	..	64	596	391	128	77	...	205	596	340	51	
4.	Palanpur	..	..	97	944	629	194	91	30	315	944	604	25	
5.	Deodar	..	..	64	586	393	128	64	1	193	586	393	...	
6.	Radhanpur	..	..	32	290	189	64	33	4	101	290	189	...	
7.	Vadgam	...	..	67	616	373	129	105	9	243	616	338	35	
8.	Danta	..	...	40	372	126	80	136	30	246	372	126	...	
9.	Tharad	..	...	48	450	292	96	55	7	158	450	261	31	
10.	Dhanera	..	..	43	409	246	86	53	24	163	409	471	...	
11.	Deesa	..	...	68	676	417	136	67	2	205	676	239	7	

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STATEMENT XIV.2—(contd.)

Sl. No.	Taluka	Total 11+12 13	Reserved Seats			Nominated Members			Total Elected Members		Total Nominated Members	
			Elected Members			Women	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Male	Female	Male	Female
			Women	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes							
1	2	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1.	Santalpur ..	186	42	26	3	14	3	..	208	42	10	14
2.	Kankrej ..	400	84	44	..	32	14	..	422	84	36	32
3.	Vav ..	391	63	56	..	65	21	..	396	63	72	65
4.	Palanpur ..	629	103	71	20	91	20	10	695	103	55	91
5.	Deodar ..	393	128	64	..	..	..	..	458	128	..	..
6.	Radhanpur ..	189	64	33	4	..	..	..	226	64	..	..
7.	Vadgam ..	373	100	90	9	29	15	..	437	100	50	29
8.	Danta ..	126	80	136	30	..	..	..	292	80	..	..
9.	Tharad ..	292	65	43	5	31	12	2	309	65	45	31
10.	Dhanera ..	471	110	56	2	26	11	..	529	110	11	26
11.	Deesa ..	246	77	49	23	9	4	1	311	77	12	9

Source :

1. District Development Officer, Banaskantha District, Palanpur.
2. Taluka Development Officers of Banaskantha District.
Extracted from Census 1971, Part X-C-I, *Departmental Statistics and Full Counts Census Tables, Banaskantha District.*

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STATEMENT XIV.3
Composition of Nagar Panchayats As on 1-1-1971

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Sl. No.	Taluka	No. of Nagar Panchayats	No. of Members appointed as per Sec.13(1) of the Gujarat Panchayats Act	Non-Reserved Seats	Composition						Non-Reserved Seats	
					Reserved seats.				Total 6 to 8	Total Seats 5 to 9	Elected Members	Nominated Members
					Women	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
1.	Santalpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2.	Kankrej	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
3.	Vav	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4.	Palanpur	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
5.	Deodar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6.	Radhanpur	..	...	17	14	2	1	...	3	17	14	..
7.	Vadgam	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
8.	Danta	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9.	Tharad	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
10.	Deesa	..	...	19	15	2	1	1	4	19	15	...
11.	Dhanera	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..

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STATEMENT XIV.3—contd.

Sl. No.	Taluka	Total 11-12 13	Reserved Seats			Nominated Members			Total Elected Members		Total Nominated Members.	
			Women	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Women	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	2	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1.	Santalpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2.	Kankrej	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3.	Vav	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4.	Palanpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5.	Deodar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6.	Radhanpur	...	14	2	1	...	...	...	15	2	...	...
7.	Vadgam	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8.	Danta	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9.	Tharad	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10.	Deesa	...	15	2	1	...	...	...	17	2	...	...
11.	Dhanera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Source :

District Development Officer, Banaskanatha, Palanpur.

Taluka Development Officers of Banaskantha District.

Extracted from Census 1971, Part X-C-I, *Departmental Statistics and Full Counts Census Tables, Banaskantha District.*

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The Taluka Panchayat

The taluka panchayat under the amended Act, shall consist of elected and associate members from amongst themselves. The number of elected members of taluka panchayat will depend on the population of the taluka and such members will be elected from the qualified voters of the taluka concerned. The total number of members varies from 15 to 31, 15 where the population of the taluka does not exceed sixty thousand, 19 where it does not exceed one lakh, 23 where it does not exceed one and half lakhs, 27 where it does not exceed two lakhs and 31 where it exceeds two lakhs. Out of the total number of seats, following provision is made for reservation of seats, for women (i) three seats where the total number of seats is fifteen, (ii) four seats where the total number of seats is nineteen, (iii) five seats where the total number of seats is twenty three and (iv) six seats where the total number of seats is either 27 or 31. Provisions for reserved seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are made in the following manner :

(a) for the Scheduled Castes, such number of seats as may be determined by the State Government so that the number of seats so determined bears, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the number arrived at by deducting from the total number of seats specified in sub-section (3) the number of seats reserved for women under clause (a) as the population of the Scheduled Castes in the taluka bears to the total population of the taluka :

(b) for Scheduled Tribes, such number of seats as may be determined by the State Government so that the number of seats so determined bears, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the number arrived at by deducting from the total number of seats specified in sub-section (3) the number of seats reserved for women under clause (a) as the population of the Scheduled Tribes in the taluka bears to the total population of the talukas :

Provided that the reserved seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in taluka in the prescribed manner.

The following shall be the associate members of a taluka panchayat namely :



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(i) members of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly elected from any constituency in the taluka or part thereof :

(ii) Presidents of all the municipalities within the revenue taluka or mahal and where any administrator or person has been appointed to perform the functions and exercise the powers of any such municipality such administrator or person.

(iii) a representative of the District Co-operative Union of the district in which the taluka panchayat is functioning, nominated by the Managing Board of the Union :

(iv) a representative of the District Co-operative Bank of the district in which the taluka panchayat is functioning nominated by the Managing Board :

(v) One such representative of the Taluka Co-operative Purchase and Sale Union or of an Agricultural Produce Market Committee in the taluka, nominated by the State Government.

Provided that the representatives to be so nominated under clauses (iii) to (v) shall be persons ordinarily residing in the taluka.

An associate member of the panchayat shall have the right to speak or otherwise take part in the proceeding of the panchayat or of such committee of the panchayat as may be prescribed but he shall not be entitled to vote in any such proceedings.

The functions of the taluka panchayats as scheduled in the Act related to sanitation and health, education, culture, social education, community development, agriculture, irrigation, animal husbandry, village and small scale industries, co-operation, women's welfare, social welfare, rural housing, pastures and relief against natural calamities. As in the case of gram/nagar panchayats, a taluka panchayat has certain discretionary functions.

Statement XIV.4 shows the composition of taluka panchayats, as on 1st January, 1971. A revised Statement XIV.5 is also appended.



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STATEMENT XIV. 4
Composition of Taluka Panchayats As on 1-1-1971
Number of Members

Sl. No.	Taluka	Ex-officio		Total (3+4)	Women	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Social Workers	Total 6 to 9
		Sarpanchs of Gram Panchayats	Chairmen of Nagar-Panchayats						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Santalpur	..	..	28	2	2	..	2	6
2.	Kankrej	..	..	58	2	2	..	2	6
3.	Vav	..	..	65	2	2	..	2	6
4.	Palanpur	..	..	97	2	2	2	2	8
5.	Deodar	..	..	64	2	2	..	2	6
6.	Radhanpur	..	1	33	2	2	..	2	6
7.	Vadgam	..	..	71	2	2	..	2	6
8.	Danta	..	..	40	2	2	2	2	8
9.	Tharad	..	..	48	2	2	..	2	6
10.	Deesa	..	1	69	2	2	..	2	6
11.	Dhanera	..	..	44	2	2	2	2	8

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STATEMENT XIV. 4—contd.

Sl. No. 1	Taluka 2			M.L.A. 11	Mamlatdar/ Mahalkari 12	President of Municipality 13	Associated			Total 11 to 16 17	Total 5 + 10 + 17 18
							Members of District Panchayat who reside in the Taluka 14	Nominated by the District Co-operative Union 15	Nominated by the District Co-operative Bank 16		
1.	Santalpur	..	..	1	1	...	1	1	1	5	39
2.	Kankrej	..	..	1	1	...	2	1	1	6	70
3.	Vav	..	..	2	1	...	2	1	1	7	78
4.	Palanpur	..	..	4	1	...	6	1	1	14	119
5.	Deodar	..	..	1	1	...	2	1	1	6	76
6.	Radhanpur	..	..	1	1	...	1	1	1	5	44
7.	Vadgam	..	..	2	1	...	2	1	1	7	84
8.	Danta	..	..	1	1	...	1	1	1	5	53
9.	Tharad	..	..	1	1	...	2	1	1	6	60
10.	Deesa	..	..	3	1	1	1	1	1	8	83
11.	Dhanera	..	..	1	1	...	2	1	1	6	58

Source :

1. District Development Officer, Banaskantha, Palanpur.
 2. Taluka Development Officers of Banaskantha District.
- Extracted from Census 1971, Part X-C-I, *Departmental Statistics and Full Counts Census Tables*, Banaskantha District.



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STATEMENT XIV.5

The total number of Reserved Seats for Women, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes and others in Taluka Panchayats of the District in 1973

Sl. No.	Name of Taluka Panchayat	Reserved Seats			General seats	Total seats
		Women	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes		
1.	Palanpur	6	2	3	16	27
2.	Vadgam	5	3	—	15	23
3.	Danta	4	1	7	7	19
4.	Deesa	6	2	1	18	27
5.	Dhanera	5	2	2	14	23
6.	Tharad	5	2	1	15	23
7.	Vav	4	2	—	13	19
8.	Deodar	5	2	—	16	23
9.	Kankrej	5	2	—	16	23
10.	Radhanpur	4	2	—	13	19
11.	Santalpur	3	1	—	11	15

Source :

District Development Officer, District Panchayat, Palanpur.

The District Panchayat

The district panchayat consists of elected and associate members and has a President and a Vice President elected by its elected members from amongst themselves. The number of elected members of a district panchayat varies from 31 to 51. 31 members where the population of the district does not exceed ten lakhs, 35 members where the population does not exceed twelve lakhs, 39 where the population does not exceed fourteen lakhs, 43 where the population does not exceed sixteen lakhs, and 51 where the population exceeds eighteen lakhs. Out of the total number of seats provision is made for reservation of seats for women and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as under :

- (a) For women (i) six seats where the total number of seats is thirty one, (ii) seven seats where the total number of seats is thirty five, (iii) eight seats where the total number

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of seats is a thirty nine, (iv) nine seats where the total number of seats is either forty seven or fifty one.

Provisions for reserved seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are made in the following manner.

(b) for Scheduled Castes, such number of seats as may be determined by the State Government so that the number of seats so determined bears, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the number arrived at by deducting from the total number of seats specified in the Act the number of seats reserved for women under clause (a) as the population of the Scheduled Castes in the district bears to the total population of the district: (b) for the Scheduled Tribes, such number of seats as may be determined by the State Government so that the number of seats so determined bears, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the number arrived at by deducting from the total number of seats reserved for women under clause (a) as the population of the Scheduled Tribes in the district bears to the total population of the district.

Provided that the reserved seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a district in the prescribed manner.

The following shall be the associate members of a district panchayat namely :

(i) Members of the House of the People elected from the areas within the jurisdiction of the district panchayat or part thereof:

(ii) Members of the Council of States residing in the revenue district.

(iii) Member of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly elected from the area within the jurisdiction of the district panchayat or part thereof :

(iv) the Collector of the revenue district :

(v) President of all municipalities within the revenue district and where any administrator or person has been appointed to



perform the functions and exercise the powers of any such municipality such administrator or person:

(vi) One of directors of the Managing Board of the District Co-operative Bank in the district as may be nominated by the Board.

(vii) a representative of the District Co-operative Union in the district as may be nominated by the Managing Board of the Union.

(viii) One such representative of the District Co-operative Purchase and Sale Union as may be nominated by the Managing Board of the Union.

An associate member of the panchayat shall have the right to speak or otherwise to take part in proceedings of the panchayat or of such committee of the panchayat as may be prescribed but he shall not be entitled to vote in any such proceedings.

The district panchayat is vested with administrative and executive powers. It is responsible for various developmental activities in the district such as establishing and maintaining dispensaries, public health centres and allied institutions. It has been entrusted with a wide range of educational activities. It manages primary education and uses the agency of taluka panchayats to supervise it. It co-ordinates and integrates community development schemes and looks after the development of irrigation, agriculture, animal husbandry, public health, medical relief, social welfare, cottage and small scale industries, collection and maintenance of statistics, etc. All these functions have been transferred to the district panchayat on an agency basis. A large number of executive functions such as registration of co-operative societies, approval of amendments to their bye laws, calling of or extending the period for the calling of annual general meeting of co-operative societies and such other functions as were exercised by the Registrar, Co-operative Societies under the Co-operative Societies Act, have also been transferred to the district panchayat.

Statement XIV.6 shows composition of district panchayat as on 1st January, 1971. A revised Statement XIV.7 showing the composition pattern of the district panchayat after the amendment is also appended:



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STATEMENT XIV. 6

Composition of District Panchayat As on 1-1-1971

Ex-Officio		Elected							
Sl. No.	Presidents of the taluka panchayats	Elected representatives of the taluka panchayats	Women	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Others	Total (4 to 7)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
1	11	9	2	2	1	16	21		
Number of Members									
Associate									
Sl. No.	Members of the Parliament	Members of the Rajya Sabha	Members of the Legislative Assembly	Collector	Presidents of the Municipalities	Nominated by the District Co-operative Union	Nominated by the District Co-operative Bank	Total (9 to 15)	Total No. of Members Col. 2+3+8+16
1	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	2	...	8	1	1	1	...	14	55

Source :

Extracted from Census 1971, Part X-C-I., *Departmental Statistics and Full Counts Census Tables*, Banaskantha District.

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STATEMENT XIV.7

The Reserved Seats for Women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and others for Banaskantha District Panchayat for the year 1973

Women	Reserved seats for		General seats.	Total seats.
	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes.		
8	3	2	26	39

Source :

District Development Officer, Banaskantha, Palanpur.

Administrative Machinery

In order to carry out various duties and functions entrusted the district and taluka panchayats under the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 and other Acts, and to run Panchayati Raj system efficiently, a hierarchy of administrative machinery has been devised and experienced personnel transferred to man it. The District Development Officer is the chief executive officer for the district panchayat and so is the Taluka Development Officer at the taluka level. In order to enable them to discharge their executive functions efficiently, these officers are given certain powers which are laid down in sections 123 and 143 of the Gujarat Panchayats Act 1961. With the transfer of many of the departmental schemes and activities, a large number of district level functionaries have also been transferred to the district panchayat. These are : Executive Engineer, (Roads and Buildings), District Health Officer, District Development Officer (Development), District Agricultural Officer, District Animal Husbandry Officer, District Statistical Officer, Assistant District Registrar, Co-operative Societies, District Backward Class Welfare Officer, Administrative Officer: Education, Project Officer; Rural Industries, Executive Engineer (Minor Irrigation), District Family Planning Officer, Administrative Officer (Family Planning) and Accounts Officer.

At the taluka level, the Taluka Development Officer is assisted by Extension Officers in various fields viz, agriculture, co-operation, industries, social education, etc. At the village level there is a Talati-cum-Secretary who looks after the collection of land revenue and maintenance of records of the gram panchayats.



Progress in the establishment of Panchayats

There were no panchayats at the time of merger of the States. However, there were 383 village panchayats in the district as on 31st March, 1958. After the addition of Radhanpur and Santalpur talukas in 1959 the number of panchayats increased to 407.99 new panchayats were established during the year 1958--59 bringing the total number of village panchayats to 506 as on 31st March, 1959. With the increase in the number of panchayats, the number of villages covered by them increased to 1367 as on 31st March, 1959. The pace of establishment of panchayats increased during the next decade. This is evident from the fact that at the end of 1970--71 there were 608 village panchayats and 2 nagar panchayats in the district.

Income and Expenditure of Gram, Taluka and District Panchayats

The income and expenditure of gram, taluka and district panchayats are described below.

Income

The main sources of income to the panchayat continue to be the statutory grants for schemes and functions transferred to panchayats. The main source of income to the panchayats is the land revenue as hitherto. The other sources of income to the panchayats are taxes, fees, stamp duty, cess on land revenue, etc.

Statement XIV.8 shows Income of Gram Panchayats, Taluka Panchayats and District Panchayat for the year 1972-73.



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STATEMENT XIV.8
Income of Gram Panchyats, Taluka Panchayats and District Panchayat, 1972-73

Gram Panchayats	Rs.	Taluka Panchayats	Rs.	District Panchayat	Rs.
1. Government Grants (Land Revenue)	5,38,066	1. Government Grants	1,14,27,128	1. Government Grants	—
2. Gifts and Donations	1,15,852	2. Statutory Grants as Land Revenue Grants	6,79,797	2. Statutory grants (Education and Medical)	2,20,75,475
3. Taxes, Fees	28,83,025	3. Education and Medical	4,87,86,407	3. Land Revenue	1,08,647
4. Others	23,84,157	4. From Panchayat's own fund	86,087	4. Local Fund Cess	9,33,872
		5. Others	38,44,331	5. Others.	5,30,425
Total...	59,21,100	Total...	2,48,23,750	Total...	2,36,48,419

Source :

District Development Officer, Banaskantha District, Palanpur.

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The panchayats have shown good deal of zeal and interest in raising their income by levying increased stamp duty and increasing local fund cess. From the Statement XIV.8 it will appear that Government grants are given to all three tiers of Panchayati Raj. The village panchayats, taluka panchayats and district panchayat get their shares in fixed percentage from the land revenue collected. However, there are several distinguishing features. To start with in the case of gram panchayats gifts and donations amounted to Rs. 1,15,852. It is significant to note that neither taluka panchayats nor the district panchayat get any gifts or donation from the public. The gram panchayats get such amount as donation presumably to commemorate the memory of some family member by construction of a school library or water works at the villages. Secondly it is only the gram panchayat which is found to levy taxes and fees. Broadly speaking the Panchayati Raj bodies are run practically from Government grants and revenues. Apparently, there is no tax efforts on the part of the taluka panchayats or district panchayat.

Expenditure

Statement XIV.9 shows items on which on expenditure is incurred by gram panchayats, taluka panchayats and district panchayat.

At village level gram and nagar panchayats activities have also increased manifold as the drinking water supply, maintenance of village roads, street lighting, construction and maintenance of school buildings, etc. have become increasingly the concern of these institutions. Panchayats have to increase their resources to cope with increasing local aspirations. In the district, panchayats at all the three tiers have done commendable work during last decade in various fields such as production, provision of basic amenities, family planning, floods, famine relief etc. This is evident from the analysis of the expenditure pattern.

The expenditure pattern varies with the levels of Panchayati Raj institutions and the development programme. The gram panchayats have spent the largest amount (31.59 per cent) on sanitation and health followed by 26.51 per cent in administration, 22.42 on public works and 16.75 per cent on education and culture. For welfare of people, agriculture, preservation of forests and animal husbandry village and cottage industries and village defence they have spent, 0.50 per cent, 1.71 per cent, 0.22 and 0.22 per cent respectively.



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STATEMENT XIV.9

Expenditure of Gram Panchayats, Taluka Panchayats and District Panchayat, 1972-73

Sl. No.	Gram Panchayats	Rs.	Percentage	Taluka Panchayats	Rs.	Percentage	District Panchayat	Rs.	Percentage
1.	Sanitation and health	16,52,251	31.59	Sanitation and health	17,16,719	7.51	Sanitation and health	6,37,814	3.79
2.	Public works	11,72,667	22.42	Public works	2,64,597	1.16	Public works	60,95,589	36.24
3.	Education and culture	8,76,037	16.75	Education and culture	90,11,364	39.43	Education and Culture.	6,52,184	3.88
4.	Administration	13,86,211	26.51	Administration	26,99,849	11.82	Administration	2,08,673	1.24
5.	Welfare of people	25,997	0.50	Welfare of people	6,82,073	2.98	Welfare of people	5,39,132	3.21
6.	Agriculture, preservation, of forests and animal husbandry	89,537	1.71	Agriculture, preservation of forests and animal husbandry	10,36,566	4.54	Agriculture preservation of Forest and animal husbandry	8,73,367	5.19
7.	Village and cottage industries	11,505	0.22	Village and cottage industries	...	...	Village and Cottage Industries	43,176	0.26
8.	Collection of land revenue and maintenance of land records	4,253	0.08	Collection of land revenue and maintenance of land records	2,92,384	1.28	Collection of land revenue and maintenance of land records	...	...
9.	Village defence	11,508	0.22	Village defence	...	...	Village defence	...	...
10.	Co-operation	...	...	Co-operation.	...	...	Co-operation	43,176	0.26
11.	Other miscellaneous	...	...	Other miscellaneous	71,49,307	31.28	Other miscellaneous	77,25,669	45.93
	Total	52,29,966	100.00		228,52,859	100.00		1,68,18,780	100.00

Source:

District Development Officer, Banaskantha District. Palanpur,

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In case of taluka panchayats, 39.43 per cent expenditure is spent on education and culture followed by 31.28 per cent on miscellaneous, 11.82 per cent on administration, 7.51 per cent on sanitation and health, on public works, welfare of people, agriculture, preservation of forests and animal husbandry, collection of land revenue and maintenance of land records they have spent about 9.96 per cent. In comparison to the gram panchayats, they spend least on public works, sanitation, health and agriculture.

In the case of district panchayat, there is a provision of Government grant and panchayat's fund. The bulk of expenditure aggregating to 36.24 per cent is incurred on public works presumably transferred by the State Government for execution followed by administration, education and culture, sanitation and health, etc. The miscellaneous items however claimed 45.93 per cent of the total expenditure.





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CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Education in Early Modern Times

The district is mostly inhabited by socially and economically backward classes and tribals. The most part of the district is desolate and the land is sandy, treeless. North and north-east part of the district is hilly and covered with forests. Many areas of the district in the past were not easily accessible, due to lack of means of communications and as a result education was found only among the advance communities of the district.

Indigenous System—In the early part of the 19th century, the indigenous system of education held the field. The indigenous schools were those in which instructions in the elements of knowledge were communicated, originated and supported by local people. In large towns, the schools were generally handed down from father to son. The schools had hardly any continuity and sprang up or vanished according to the local demand or its absence. The average number of pupils per school was about 15 and the number of pupils varied from 2 to 150. There were a few schools which were conducted for the benefit of the pupils of one community or caste. The pupils generally came from upper strata of Hindu community. The teachers were mostly Brahmins and Jains, Though a teacher of other community was not uncommon. Jain priests functioned as teachers at Palanpur. The teachers were not regularly paid in cash but were given grain, gifts and money on some important occasions. This payment varied from place to place and according to the capacity of the parents. There was also the practice in Gujarat of offering gifts of all kinds to the teachers. The age of pupils varied from 6 to 14 and the average duration of school life was 2 or 3 years.

The curriculum of indigenous schools was *Mulakshara*, *Nama*, *Dhat*, *Ank* or multiplication tables, commercial arithmetic, (oral) letter-writing, writing of agreements, bonds and *hundies*.

The school accommodation was generally very poor, very often it was a portion of a religious or a public building. Some



schools were housed in the rooms attached to temples or to some religious buildings or *dharmashalas*. In many cases the school house, was the Masters' own property.

There were 38 indigenous schools in the State of Palanpur in the year 1840. The Political Agent, Major Keily, requested local Brahmins to impart education to the people. The Brahmins accepted the suggestion and started teaching local people. They were paid Rs. 20 per month.

Indigenous system was replaced gradually by the State system of education, which was introduced in the district by the Britishers.

As large areas of the district, were under the princely States, the progress of education as compared to the adjoining areas was very slow. The state of education during the early period of British rule in this region can well be observed from the following narration of Shri Framroz Sorabji Master :

“ Education has not as yet grown to any appreciable extent in this Agency, but is merely an exotic nurtured with much difficulty in a thoroughly congenial soil. What is really required for the development of this part of Gujarat, is the extension of primary education for the people. The Kolis, Sindhis and other dangerous classes are the races it is most important to educate. The Political Officers are trying their utmost to persuade the Talukdars to send their sons to the Scott College at Sadra and the people are given facilities at their homes to educate the rising generation but they are yet slow in appreciating the value of education. The premier state of Palanpur has taken the lead in the matter and established a High School at its Capital which is now bearing good fruits. It has turned out many young men who have seen the benefits of further education and have by dint of industry and perseverance become Bachelors of Arts, Laws and Literature. It is highly creditable to His Highness the Nawab of Radhanpur that he has lately introduced free education in his State.”¹

Palanpur State

According to the Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency, (1880-81) in the Palanpur State, there were 10 primary schools, 9 for boys and

1. FRAMROZ SORABJI MASTER, *Palanpur Agency. Directory*, Vol. I, 1908, p. 5.



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1 for girls in the year 1878-79. There was also one Persian school¹. In the year 1840 an Anglo-vernacular school was started. One old Parsi was appointed as a teacher and was paid Rs. 40 per month. These schools were under the supervision of Educational Inspector of Northern Division and Director of Public Instructions of Bombay State.

During the year 1903-04 in the Palanpur State, there were 22 State Schools attended by 1,275 pupils including 31 girl students.²

In the year 1906-07 there were 20 schools with, 1,426 students. Of these, 17 were village schools, 2 were town schools and one was girls' school. There was also one high school-Palanpur High School. The number of pupils on its roll was 236 in the year 1906-07. Besides these, there were two grant-in-aid schools. It is noteworthy that primary education was made free in the State from 1912.³

According to the Administration Report for the year 1930-31 of the Palanpur State, there were 47 primary schools with 3,971 students. During the same year the total number of boys receiving English education was 502. The Anglo-Vernacular School at Deesa was named Sir Charles Watson Anglo-Vernacular School.

There was significant increase in the number of primary schools and pupils due to the effect of the National Movement in British India among the people. The Nawab of Palanpur and the Jain community of the state also took keen interest for the spread of education among Muslims and the masses. There was limited progress in secondary education as the number of secondary schools had remained the same during the period 1904-05 to 1944-45. This would be clear by the following statement.

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1. *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency, Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha*, (1881).
 2. *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Vol. XXI, (1908), *The Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. I, (1908).
 3. *The Palanpur Agency Directory*. Vol. IV., (1919).



STATEMENT XV.1

Progress of Education in Palanpur State

Sl. No.	Nature of School	Number of schools			Students		
		1936-37	1941-42	1945-46	1936--37	1941-42	1945--46
Primary Schools							
1.	State Schools	28	46	47	3,012	4,042	3,880
2.	State Aided	16	18	22	236	457	425
3.	State Aided Municipal	2	2	2	305	346	478
4.	State Aided Mission & Urdu	3	3	2	243	232	147
5.	Gamthi (Private)	39	41	41	1,428	1,574	1,533
Secondary Schools							
1.	State High School	1	1	1	613	421	419
2.	State Middle School	1	1	1	N.A.	502	539
3.	State Aided Municipal Middle School	1	1	1	113	162	234
4.	Private Middle Schools	2	1	2	66	N.A.	84
Total		93	114	119	6,016	7,736	7,739

Source :

Annual Administration Reports of the Palanpur State for the Years, 1936-37, 1941-42, 1945-46.

For teaching English there were 4 schools. In the year 1945-46, there was a composite school at Juna Deesa and English classes were attached to Kanodar primary school. The Sir Charles Watson Middle Schools at Deesa was maintained by the Deesa Municipality.¹

During the period from 1903-04 to 1936-37 the number of schools rose from 22 to 93, and this number further increased to 119 in the year 1945-46, while the number of pupils also increased from 1,276 to 6,016 during the period 1903 to 1936 and it further increased to 7,739 from 1936-37 to 1945-46.

1. The Annual Administration Report of the Palanpur State, 1945-46.



Radhanpur State

In the year 1878-79, there were four primary (vernacular) schools and one Anglo-vernacular school in Radhanpur State.¹

In the year 1893-94, there were 20 Educational institutions with 1,055 students² (978 boys and 77 girls) and in a decade the figure rose to 24 schools and 711 students (617 boys and 94 girls) in the State.³ According to the Palanpur Agency Directory (1919), there was one high school in the State. It was established in the year 1910. The number of students on its roll in the year 1916-17 was 170. During the same year there were three taluka schools located at Radhanpur, Sami* and Mujpur.* The total number of students in these schools was 550. Besides these, there were 19 village schools, 'Urdu School and 2 Girls' schools. The total number of students in all these Educational Institutions was about 600⁴.

On the eve of Independence (1944-45)⁵ there were 33 primary schools (31 for boys and 2 for girls). There was also one Urdu School at Radhanpur. Besides these, there were 2 Harijan Schools each at Radhanpur and Sami,* and two composite schools at Sami and Mujpur.* The total number of boys attending primary schools was 1,357. The number of girls taking primary education was 212. Primary Education was made free throughout the State.

There was only one High School in the State, viz., the Radhanpur High School. The total number of students on its roll in 1944-45 was 391 including 25 girls. A nominal fee was charged, in the High School for the instruction of vocational, industrial and agricultural Education. Accountancy and Commercial subjects were the compulsory subjects.

During the period 1903-04 to 1944-45 the number of schools rose from 24 to 39, while the number of pupils also shot up from 711 to 1960 during the same period.

* Sami and Mujpur are now in the Mahesana district.

1. *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency, Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha*, (1881).

2. *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. V. B. (1905).

3. *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Vol. XXI, (1908).

4. *The Palanpur Directory*, Vol. IV, (1919).

5. *Annual Administration Report of the Radhanpur State*, 1944-45.



Tharad

In 1878-79 there was one school at Tharad which imparted education upto sixth standard. The number of students on its roll was 40¹.

During the year 1906-07 there were seven schools in Tharad State, of which, one boys school and one girls school were located at Tharad. The remaining five were located in the villages of the State. The number of students in these five schools was 264 (248 boys and 16 girls)².

According to the Palanpur Agency Directory (1919) in the Tharad State, there were 8 educational institutions including one Anglo-vernacular school at Tharad. The total number of students on the roll of these schools was 350.

On the eve of merger (1946-47) there were seven schools in the State, of which 5 were primary, one was a middle school and one was girls' school.³

Educational Progress in the Other States

During the year 1878-79 there were vernacular schools for boys each at Vav, Varahi, Santalpur and at Thara. These schools were supported by the Chiefs, shareholders of the Estates or Thandars. The total number of students in all these schools was 228⁴.

In the year 1906, in the different Thanas and Talukas of the Agency there were 18 schools, of which 7 were in Kankrej, 3 in Deodar, 2 in Varahi, 3 in Vav and 3 in the Santalpur Thana. The Deputy Educational Inspector of the Agency looked after the schools⁵.

In the Danta State in 1929, there was one Anglo-vernacular school at Danta with provision of teaching English in 1st and 2nd standards. In this school, the number of students in, the Gujarati section was 141 and in English was 21. Over and above this, there

1. *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha*, 1881.
2. *PALANPUR AGENCY DIRECTORY*, Vol. I, 1908, p. 92
3. PATEL REVJIBHAI, *A Survey of Compulsory Education in the District of Banaskantha*, (1964).
4. *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency Cutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha*, 1881.
5. *Palanpur Agency Directory*, (1908).



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were 3 primary schools located at different places of the State. The control of Education Department was with the State.¹

On eve of the merger (1946--47) of the State there were 7 primary schools with 200 students.²

Before Independence, the administration of the Education Department of the Deodar State was under the Palanpur Agency, while in Palanpur and Danta States, there were separate Departments.

The progress of education on the whole during the rule of princely States was very slow, as the rulers were not interested in the expansion of education particularly in rural areas. During this period, some schools existed only at the State capitals.

LITERACY AND EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

Growth of Literacy Since 1951

The last three Censuses have brought to light the progress achieved in the literacy standards in the district, which rose from 7.17 to 15.76 per cent between 1951-1971. Literacy among males increased from 11.94 in 1951 to 24.06 per cent in 1971 and that of females from 2.14 to 6.94 per cent of the total population of the district.³

Population Growth and Literacy

The growth of population during the period from 1951-61 was 28.72 per cent while it was 27.03 per cent during 1961-71. As compared to this, the general literacy in the district during these periods rose by 5.56 per cent and 3.03 per cent respectively. It indicates that the rate of growth of literacy did not keep pace with that of the population.⁴

According to the Census of 1971, the all India literacy rates for persons males and females are reported to be 29.46, 39.45 and

1. *Report on the Administration of the Danta State for the Year 1929*, p. 9.
2. RAVJILHAI PATEL, *A survey of Compulsory Education in the District of Banaskantha*, (1964).
3. *District Census Handbooks 1961-71*, Gujarat, Banaskantha.
4. *Ibid.*



18.72 per cent respectively. Comparable literacy rates in Gujarat are higher than the all-India average ranking 4th both in total and in respect of male literacy (35.79 total and 46.11 male) and 5th in respect of female literacy (24.75).¹

According to 1961 Census in general literacy the district ranked last but one in all the three categories, *i.e.*, persons, male and female.

In the rural areas in 1961 the district ranked last in the case of female literacy while it was last but one in persons and male literacy. In the urban areas the district ranked last in the case of persons and female literacy while it ranked 14th in case of male literacy.

According to 1971 Census the Banaskantha district also occupied the last but one rank in the case of general literacy for persons and males and in the case of Females literacy the district ranked last. In the rural and urban areas, the district occupied last rank among the districts of the State in case of literacy of persons, males and females.

The percentage of literacy to total population by age and sex is given for total/rural/urban in the following Statement:

STATEMENT XV.2

Literacy Percentage by Age-groups, 1961

Age-Groups	Total			Rural			Urban		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All ages	12.73	20.45	4.56	10.71	17.82	3.21	39.12	54.50	22.48
5-14	18.96	28.51	8.31	16.84	26.36	6.25	47.89	57.42	36.93
15-34	16.08	25.75	5.76	13.27	22.03	3.91	51.24	71.55	29.09
35-59	10.54	18.29	2.38	8.22	14.74	1.38	39.81	62.28	15.21
60+	6.73	13.83	0.78	5.20	10.80	0.48	26.49	55.53	4.51
Age not stated.	3.86	5.70	1.61	3.93	5.80	1.64	...	...	...

Source:

District Census Handbook, 1961, Banaskantha, p. 16.

1. Pocket Book of Population Statistics, 1971, *Census*, Gujarat.



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Literates among children in the age-group 5-14 constitute 18.96 per cent, of whom males account for 28.51 per cent and females 8.31 per cent. The highest literacy among persons and males is found to be in the age-group 5-14 in total/rural areas, while in urban areas it is found in the age-group 15-34. The highest percentage of literacy among females is found in the age-group 5-14 in total/rural and urban areas of the district.

The following statement furnishes the sex-wise details of literacy rural/urban for each taluka of the district.





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STATEMENT XV.3

Rural/Urban Literacy by Sex. 1971

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Name of District/Taluka/ Mahal	Total Rural/ Urban	Literates (Number)	Percentage of total population	Literate Males	Percentage of total Male population	Literate Females	Percentage of total Female population
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
District Total	Total	1,99,463	15.76	1,56,903	24.06	42,560	6.94
	Rural	1,48,155	12.93	1,21,818	20.64	26,337	4.74
	Urban	51,308	42.90	35,085	56.90	16,223	28.00
(1) Palanpur Taluka	Total	55,545	24.26	42,319	36.18	13,226	11.81
	Rural	33,176	18.27	27,234	29.43	5,942	6.67
	Urban	22,369	47.20	15,085	61.72	7,284	31.74
(2) Vadgam Taluka	Rural	30,278	26.88	23,051	40.59	7,227	12.94
(3) Deesa Taluka	Total	28,130	14.39	22,507	22.28	5,623	5.96
	Rural	13,924	8.64	12,576	15.10	1,348	1.73
	Urban	14,206	41.36	9,931	55.91	4,275	25.78
(4) Kankrej Taluka	Rural	13,886	11.92	10,962	18.21	2,924	5.20

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(5) Radhanpur Taluka	...	...	Total	12,308	19.36	9,305	28.59	3,003	9.68
			Rural	5,017	11.10	4,347	18.74	670	3.04
			Urban	7,291	39.71	4,958	53.02	2,333	25.91
(6) Santalpur Taluka	...	...	Total	6,739	12.11	5,470	18.95	1,269	4.74
			Rural	4,829	9.59	4,131	15.83	698	2.88
			Urban	1,910	36.00	1,339	48.39	571	22.49
(7) Deodar Taluka	..	..	Total	11,768	10.98	9,382	16.86	2,386	4.63
			Rural	9,522	9.39	7,914	15.03	1,608	3.30
			Urban	2,246	38.54	1,468	49.43	778	27.23
(8) Vav Taluka	...	..	Rural	9,646	9.92	8,206	16.30	1,440	3.07
(9) Tharad Taluka	...	...	Total	10,748	9.86	9,047	16.08	1,701	3.22
			Rural	7,462	7.41	6,743	12.99	719	1.47
			Urban	3,286	39.30	2,304	52.78	982	24.57
(10) Dhanera Taluka	...	...	Rural	11,214	10.34	9,138	16.12	2,076	4.01
(11) Danta Taluka	...	...	Rural	9,201	13.07	7,516	20.52	1,685	4.94

Source : District Census Handbook 1971, Banaskantha, Part X-A & B.



According to the Census of 1971, the highest percentage of general literacy was recorded in the *Palanpur taluka* (24.26) and the lowest in the *Tharad taluka* (9.86). In the urban areas, the percentage of general literacy was comparatively higher than that in the rural areas. In the urban areas, the *Palanpur taluka* had the highest percentage of general literacy (47.20), obviously because of availability of educational facilities, whereas it was the lowest in the *Santalpur taluka* (36.00). The highest percentage of literacy in the rural areas was found in the *Vadgam taluka* (26.88).

The general literacy for males and females was the highest in the *Vadgam taluka* (40.59 per cent and 12.94 per cent respectively). The lowest percentage of literacy for males was in the *Tharad taluka* 16.08 and for females it was 3.07 per cent in the *Vav taluka*.

In the case of urban areas, the highest literacy for both the sexes was recorded in the *Palanpur taluka* being 61.72 and 31.74 per cent, respectively. The lowest percentage both for males and females was recorded in the *Santalpur taluka* being 48.39 for males and 22.49 per cent for females.

In the rural areas, the highest percentage of literacy for both sexes was found in the *Vadgam taluka*, 40.59 for males and 12.94 for females. The lowest percentage both for males and females was in the *Tharad taluka*, 12.99 per cent and 1.47 per cent respectively.

Educational Standards

The true picture of the educational standard in the district can be had from the (1961) Census Statement shown below:



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STATEMENT XV.4
Educational Levels in Urban and Rural Areas, 1961

Sl. No. 1	Educational Levels 2	Urban			Rural		
		Persons 3	Males 4	Females 5	Persons 6	Males 7	Females 8
	Total	70,654	36,721	33,933	9,25,490	4,75,230	4,50,260
1.	Illiterate	43,015	16,709	26,306	8,26,342	3,90,547	4,35,795
2.	Literate (without educational-levels)	13,796	9,849	3,947	64,236	54,898	9,338
3.	Primary or Junior basic	11,690	8,180	3,510	33,199	28,128	5,071
4.	Matriculation or Higher Secondary	1,765	1,618	147	1,713	1,657	56
5.	Technical diploma not equal to degree	35	35	..	..	..	..
6.	Non-technical diploma not equal to degree	5	5	..	..	..	..
7.	University degree or Post-graduate degree other than technical degree	208	187	21	..	..	..
8.	Technical degree or diploma equal to degree or post-graduate degree	140	138	2	..	..	..
	(i) Engineering	23	23	..	..	..	..
	(ii) Medicine	38	36	2	..	..	..
	(iii) Agriculture	2	2	..	..	..	..
	(iv) Veterinary and dairying	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(v) Technology	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(vi) Teaching	27	27	..	..	..	..
	(vii) Others	50	50	..	..	..	..

Source : District Census Handbook 1961, Banaskantha, p.52.



This statement gives a very revealing picture of the progress of education, which the district has made in recent years. It clearly shows the pattern of standard of education in the urban and rural areas. Generally the standard of education is lower in the countryside than in the towns. As much as 89.29 per cent of the total rural population is illiterate as against 60.88 per cent for the urban areas. This is due to the availability of greater educational facilities in towns.

In recent years much progress in the field of higher and technical education has been made in the district. According to the 1961 Census, in the urban areas, 208 persons received university degrees or the post-graduate degrees or other than technical degrees and 140 persons were reported to have acquired technical qualifications. It is interesting to note that of the persons taking post-S. S. C. Courses, 40.23 per cent held technical degrees and 59.77 per cent university degrees or post-graduate degrees other than technical degrees. Females have also started taking the benefits of higher education.

SPREAD OF EDUCATION AMONG WOMEN

सत्यमेव जयते

The progress of women's education in the district was very slow before Independence. This was because the district was inhabited by a large number of backward classes. Also the entire district was very backward, socially and economically. Generally the people were not responsive to promote women's education. One of the factors responsible for reluctance of the parents to send their daughters was the absence of separate educational institutions for girls. Before Independence there were only six girl's schools in the former States, of these two were in the Palanpur State, two in Radhanpur State, one in the Tharad State and one was in Danta State.

After Independence, in the field of primary education for girls noteworthy progress has been made in the district. This can be clearly seen from the following table:



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Year	No. of girls' schools and students.		No. of Girls studying in mixed schools.	Total number of girl students in primary schools.
	(a)	(b)		
1951--52	11	1,276	1,062	2,338
1956--57	13	2,293	6,701	8,994
1961--62	13	3,118	12,421	15,539
1966-67	17	4,611	13,558	18,169
1972--73	21	6,957	20,840	27,797

Source :

Administrative Officer, District Panchayat, Banaskantha, Palanpur.

In the field of secondary education the progress is comparatively less. One of the factors responsible for this was the absence of separate secondary schools for girls in the district. In the earlier stages, separate schools for girls were started only in the primary section. As such, by and large, girls discontinued their studies after completion of the primary stage. Early marriage was also an important factor for discouraging girls taking secondary education. The first secondary school for girls was started in the year 1946 at Palanpur. Still upto 1973-74 there was only one secondary school for girls. The number of students in this school was 270. The number of girls in Co-educational institutions was 1,726 in 1973-74. At the University level, very lately, girls started taking interest in higher education. In the year 1972-73 the number of girls taking higher education was 153.

To meet the shortage of women teachers, there is one women's training institution for primary teachers at Balaram in the district.

SPREAD OF EDUCATION AMONG BACKWARD CLASSES AND TRIBES

Literacy and education among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the urban and rural areas as per 1971 Census are given below :

	Total Population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes			Literates and Educated persons			Percentage of literacy		
	P.	M.	F.	P.	M.	F.	P.	M.	F.
Total ..	202,451	103,781	98,670	17,591	15,474	2,117	8.69	14.91	2.15
Rural ..	190,134	97,392	92,742	14,903	13,174	1,729	7.84	13.53	1.66
Urban ..	12,317	6,389	5,928	2,688	2,300	388	21.82	36.00	6.55

Source :

District Census Handbook 1971, Banaskantha, Part X-C-I, pp. 104-116.



These figures reveal a low level of literacy among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The level of literacy among those living in the rural areas was particularly very low (7.84 per cent). The level of literacy of the females is comparatively still very low as 2,117 out of a total of 98,670 or 2.15 per cent only were returned as literates against 6.94 per cent of general literacy of females in the district.

The percentage of Scheduled Caste literacy in 1961 was 9.14. It rose to 11.61 per cent in 1971. The percentage of literacy among the Scheduled Tribes also increased from 2.91 in 1961 to 4.01 per cent in 1971 in the district. This slow progress indicates very little impact of literacy drive on this section of the society. It also indicates that the growth of literacy is not keeping pace with the growth of population (which is 23.6 per cent in the case of Scheduled Castes and 32.24 per cent in the case of Scheduled Tribes.)

Educational Facilities For Backward Classes

According to the 1971 Census, population of the Scheduled Castes was 9.85 per cent and the Scheduled Tribes population was 6.15 per cent of the total population of the district. The former Palanpur and Radhanpur States had undertaken some measure to spread education among the Backward Classes by opening schools for them. In 1928-29 one Antyaj School was opened in the Palanpur State. In the Radhanpur State, there were also two Harijan schools, each at Radhanpur and Sami in the year 1944-45. After Independence, realising the need of levelling up the Backward Classes, the Bombay State, in the year 1951, constituted a separate Department. The Backward Class children were provided with tuition fees, examination fees, scholarships, hostel facilities, etc. The educational concessions provided by the Bombay State are still continued in the Gujarat State after the bifurcation. A brief description of them is given below.

Primary and Secondary Education

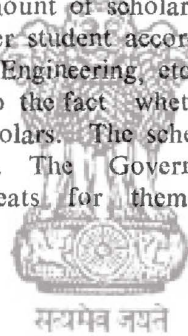
The Primary and Secondary education is free for all the classes of the students. The Backward Class students studying in schools (Government or local bodies schools) in std. V to VII, and those who have secured 40 per cent marks or more in the last examina-



tion are given lump sum scholarships at the rate of Rs. 40 per annum per student. Backward Class students in non-Government school are given scholarships at the rate of Rs. 60 to 90 per annum. The Backward Class students studying in std. VIII to XI and those who are preparing for technical courses are given annual scholarships of Rs. 75 to 115 per annum respectively, on statutory *cum* poverty basis. They are also given examination fees for appearing at the S.S.C. Examination.

Higher Education

Under the Government of India Scheme for the Backward Class students, the State Directorate of Social Welfare awards a scholarships to eligible students for prosecuting post-Secondary School courses. The amount of scholarship varies from Rs. 125 to Rs. 250 per month, per student according to the faculties such as Arts, Science, Medical, Engineering, etc., taking into consideration their attendance and also the fact whether they are staying in hostels or are day scholars. The scheme is being administered by the State Government. The Government has also reserved certain percentage of seats for them in various educational institutions.



Hostels

During the Second Five Year Plan, there were 7 Backward Class hostels in the district. It increased to 10 at the end of the Third Five Year Plan.

In the year 1973-74, there were 12 Backward Class hostels. In addition to these, there were 4 Ashram Schools at different places in the district. In these hostels and Ashram Schools students were provided free lodging, boarding and other facilities. The voluntary agencies running hostels and Ashram Schools are also given financial assistance by the Government. The Social Welfare Department also runs eight Balwadis for Backward Class children at various places.

During the Third Five Year Plan period, the total financial aid amounting to Rs. 4,54,295 was given to 3,212 students. During the Fourth Five Year Plan, financial assistance towards tuition



fees, examination fees and scholarships amounting to Rs. 742,027 was given to 15,685 Backward Class students.

GENERAL EDUCATION

Pre-Primary Education

Pre-Primary education is the education of the child below the age of 6. It begins from the 3rd or the 4th year. During this period, the foundations of habits of mental and moral or physical health are formed. Pre-primary school is commonly known as Balwadi, Balmandir, Shishu Vihar, etc., in Gujarati. Mr. Wilhem August Frobel, a German Educationist, is known as the father of pre-primary education. In 1837 he gave name to such a school. In India, the credit for introducing kindergarten and Montessori systems goes to the christian missionaries. Pre-primary classes of the Balmandir pattern are conducted at several places in the district. Among them Shri Jain Balmandir, Palanpur is the oldest, established in 1951. Details of the known Balmandirs of the district are as under:

Sr. No.	Name of the Balmandir	Students
1.	Shri Jain Balmandir, Palanpur	100
2.	Shri C. R. Mehta Balmandir, Palanpur	100
3.	Stree Samaj Sanchalit Balmandir, Deesa	80
4.	The Bhagvati Balmandir, Danta	50
5.	The Ambaji Balmandir, Ambaji	66
6.	The Jagana Balmandir, Jagana	54
7.	The Kumkum Balmandir, Thara	64
8.	The Radhanpur Balmandir, Radhanpur	42
9.	The Sihori Balmandir, Sihori	44
Total		600

Balwadis—Balwadis are centres of cultural activities for children of Backward Classes. Its objective is to orient backward class children towards education and also to cultivation of good habits. These Balwadis are conducted by the voluntary agencies. The Social Welfare Department of the State gives financial assistance.

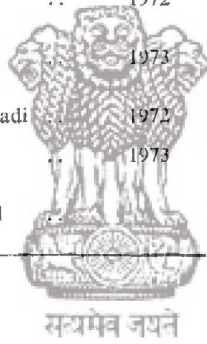


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There are eight such Balwadis in the district, the details of which are as under :

Sl. No.	Name of the Balwadis	Year of establishment	Location	Students
1.	Vicharati Jati Balwadi.	1956	Nava Deesa	39
2.	.. ..	1971	Ratanpur (T. Palanpur)	31
3.	.. ..	1973	Kodram (T. Vadgam.)	40
4.	.. ..	1973	Nalasar (T. Vadgam)	40
5.	Adivasi Jati Balwadi	1972	Sanali (T. Danta)	52
6.	Vicharati Jati Balwadi	1973	Varahi (T. Santalpur)	42
7.	Bhangi Jati Kalayan Balwadi	1972	Radhanpur	37
8.	Harijan Jati Balwadi	1973	Chhapi	32
Total		..	..	313



Primary Education

After Independence, and with the merger of princely States with Bombay State, expansion of the primary education received greater attention. In 1953-54, the Government launched an intensive drive for providing schools to as many villages as possible. Three programmes were undertaken for this purpose. The first was the opening of independent schools in villages, with a population of 500 or over (These were mostly single-teacher institutions.) Under the second scheme, known as the group-schools scheme, small villages which could not be given independent schools of their own, are grouped with a neighbouring village where a school existed already or where a new school was specially opened for the purpose. The third scheme was known as the scheme of peripatetic teachers. According to this scheme, a teacher was appointed to work in both the villages in any one of the three ways, (1) to hold the morning session of the school in one village and



the afternoon session in another on the same day, (2) to hold school alternately in each village on six days of the week, and (3) to hold school on three consecutive days of each week in one village and on the remaining consecutive days in the other. Only the first way of the scheme is executed in this district. This created a very favourable condition and as a result, the number of schools rose to 511 in 1953-54. There was further expansion during the Second Five Year Plan period (1956-61), as compulsion was introduced for all the children of the age-groups of 7-11. Thus, the number of schools rose from 1089 in 1956-57 to 1,291 in 1960-61 reducing the number of villages without schools considerably. According to the 1961 Census, out of 1,359 inhabited villages in the district, 1,240 villages (91.24 per cent) were provided with primary educational facilities. An appreciable progress was made in this direction in Palanpur, Dhanera, Tharad, Deodar, Deesa and Vadgam talukas, where about 90 per cent of villages were provided with primary schools. With the introduction of the Panchayati Raj in Gujarat (1-4-1963), primary education, except in authorised municipal areas, was transferred to the District Panchayat. The District Panchayat discharges its responsibilities through the Education Committee. The Education Department of the State appoints Administrative Officer in the district for the administration of the primary education under Panchayat. According to the 1971 Census out of 1,360 villages of the district, only 80 villages or 7.58 per cent were without primary schools. The number of scholars per one thousand population was 81 and the area covered per school was 9.52 sq. km. Out of 1,301 schools, 804 were single-teacher schools in the non-municipal areas. The number of scholars per teacher came to 36 in 1971 (1972-73). In the year, 1974, the percentage of the schools facilities for education in their own habitation or within one and half km. distance from their habitation was 97.30.

In the Urban areas the responsibility for the primary education is entrusted to the authorised municipalities, which are also given, grants in accordance with rules. In this district, only Palanpur municipality is conducting primary schools. The Palanpur Municipal School Board came into existence in 1965. In 1973-74, there were 12 schools (10 boys, 2 girls) under the control of the municipality. The total number of students was 5,241 (3,029 boys and 2,212 girls). The number of teachers was 125, of which 115 were trained.



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The following table gives details about the progress of primary education during the Plan periods :

Year	No. of primary schools, (including basic schools)	No. of pupils		
		Boys	Girls	Total
1951--52	165	13,711	2,338	16,049
1956--57	1,089	42,500	8,994	51,494
1961--62	1,291	59,682	15,539	75,221
1966-67	1,294	66,945	18,169	85,114
1968--69	1,295	72,197	19,906	92,103
1972--73	1,353	86,385	27,797	114,182

Source :

Administrative Officer, District Panchayat Education Committee, Banaskantha, Palanpur.

As can be seen from the above, primary education registered a remarkable progress during the three Plan periods. The number of primary schools rose from 165 in 1951-52 to 1,291 in 1961 and to 1,353 in 1972-73, while the number of pupils also shot up from 16,049 to 75,221 during the period from 1951 to 1961 and 114,182 from 1961 to 1973.

सत्यमेव जयते

Compulsory Primary Education in Banaskantha—The Bombay Compulsory Primary Education Act of 1947 was brought into force in this district from 1st August, 1954 for the age-group 7-8 years in towns, having a population, of one thousand or more, according to the 1951 Census. When this scheme was introduced, there were 511 schools in the district. This scheme covered 137 villages, and in urban areas 9 institutions were brought under compulsion. The total population covered under the scheme was 2,97,382. This scheme was applied to other age-groups as shown below :

Year	Age-groups
1955--56	7--9
1956--57	7--10
1957--58	7--11



During the Second Five Year Plan, compulsory education, was introduced from September 1, 1956, in all towns having a population between 500 and 999. Excepting a few villages, the scheme was gradually extended to following age-groups, from October 1, 1956 to include villages with a population of even less than 500 souls;

Year	Age-groups
1956--57	7--8
1957--58	7--9
1958--59	—
1959--60	7--10*

The entire district was covered under the Compulsory Education Act, from the year 1960.

In absence of proper penal actions and because of complacency of the agencies of enforcement, the compulsory education is not vigorously pursued in the district. The weaker sections of the people, therefore, suffered.

Primary School Teachers

सत्यमेव जयते

As per Government rules, every teacher is expected to teach 40 students per class, but in the rural areas, the number of students per class is less than 40, and so he is required to teach more than one classes. In the urban areas, the number of pupils sometimes exceeds 40 and the schools are required to run in shift due to lack of accommodation. The number of teachers in 1952 was 414, it shot up to 2,204 in 1961-62 and to 3,293 in 1972--73. It is noteworthy that more than 85 per cent of the teachers were trained in the district. This was due to opening of two colleges at Palanpur and Kanodar respectively in 1959-60. A training College for women was started at Balaram (Chitrasani) in 1963. The following statement gives detail of the trained and untrained teachers in the district:

- *(1) PATEL RAVJIBHAI, *A survey of Compulsory Education in the District of Banaskantha*, (1964).
(2) 66th Session Indian National Congress, *Souvenir Bhavnagar* 1961 . p. 230.



STATEMENT XV.5
Teachers in Primary Schools

Year	Number of Teachers in Primary Schools			Percentage of Males and Females teachers		Number of Trained teachers	Percentage of Trained Teachers
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1948-49	..	..	177	..	..	..	..
1952-53	363	51	414	87.68	12.32	122	29.47
1956-57	1,304	90	1,394	93.54	6.46	200	14.35
1961-62	1,973	231	2,204	89.52	10.48	559	25.36
1963-64	2,004	288	2,292	87.43	12.57	879	38.35
1969-70	2,352	253	2,605	90.29	9.71	1,946	74.70
1970-71	2,336	338	2,674	87.36	12.64	2,199	82.24
1971-72	2,473	347	2,820	87.70	12.30	2,484	88.09
1972-73	2,776	395	3,171	87.54	12.46	2,614	82.43
1973-74	2,822	471	3,293	85.70	14.30	2,828	85.88

Source :

- (1) Administrative Officer, Education Committee, District Panchayat, Banaskantha, Palanpur.
- (2) Figures for the year 1948-49 to 1963-64 are extracted from the Thesis of Shri Ravjibhai Patel, *A survey of Compulsory Education in the District of Banaskantha.*

BASIC EDUCATION

The main idea behind the basic education is that, education should centre round some form of manual productive work. Children should not get merely bookish knowledge but should also learn some simple craft to inculcate in them a sense of self-reliance, responsibility, initiative, enterprise and resourcefulness. There was only one basic school in the district in the year 1954. In the year 1956, 47 primary schools were respectively converted into 31 junior basic and 16 Senior basic schools. In the year 1973-74, the number rose to 60, of which 32 were junior and 28 were senior basic schools. Out of these schools, 20 were teaching purely spinning, 12 spinning and weaving, 26 kitchen gardening and agriculture and 2 were with card board modelling and sewing and cutting. The number of students covered under the basic education in the district during the year 1973-74 was 14,614, out of total number of 1,18,000 pupils.



1981 -Banaskantha District Gazetteers Gujarat State (1317)

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DISTRICT GAZETTEER : BANASKANTHA

In 1973-74, 54 Adarsh Schools in the district were given Rs. 1,000 for the purchase of teaching aids and raw material for crafts taught in the schools.

ASHRAM SCHOOLS

The Ashram schools are residential schools and are generally situated in hilly and forests areas in the tribal tracts. They are conducted on basic school pattern with agriculture as the main craft. These schools have proved extremely useful for providing educational facilities to the Scheduled Tribes. They provide free lodging, boarding and medical facilities.

There were 4 Ashram schools during the year 1973-74 in the district. The details of these schools are as under:



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Ashram Schools 1973-74								
Sl. No. 1	Name of the Ashram Schools 2	Location 3	Taluka/ Mahal 4	Year of establishment 5	Management 6	No. of pupils 1973-74.		
						Boys 7	Girls 8	Total 9
1.	Shri Thakkar Bapa Ashram (Scheduled Tribes)	Machkoda	Danta	1954	Shri Sevaniketan Khedbrahma Dist. Sabarkantha	90	30	120
2.	Ratanpur Lokniketan Ashram Shala (Nomadic Tribes)	Ratanpur	Palanpur	1970	Lokniketan Ratanpur	81	4	85
3.	Adivasi Ashram Shala (Scheduled Tribes)	Chitrasani	Palanpur	1963	Balaram Saghan Kshetra Samiti Chitrasani	88	28	116
4.	Ashram Shala (Nomadic Tribes)	Chitrasani	Palanpur	1965	Balaram Saghan Kshetra Samiti Chitrasani	87	13	100

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TRAINING FACILITIES FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

For qualitative improvement of primary education it is very necessary that the primary teachers should have good academic qualifications and training. The first training college for men was started in 1959 at Palanpur and another college at Kanodar also for men was started in 1960. The latter was closed in the year 1967-68. The Government of India had sanctioned 100 per cent grant for all the training colleges started during the year 1959-60 and 1960-61. As a result, the number of training colleges, together with the number of classes and students also increased. Another college for women was started at Balaram (Chitrasani) in 1963. For qualitative improvement, following measures were taken by the State Government; only S.S.C. passed teachers are admitted in the training college. Secondly, admission is given to the teachers who have passed S. S. C. Examination with Mathematics and Science subjects and with 50 per cent of marks in the aggregate. Exception is, however, made in case of Scheduled Caste and Tribe teachers, who have obtained a minimum of 45 per cent marks.

In the year 1973-74, there were three training colleges for primary teachers in the district. Their details are as under:

Primary Teachers Training Colleges

Sl. No.	Name of the institution	Location	Year of establishment	Male/Female	Management	Pupils 1973-74
1.	Government Basic Training College	Palanpur	1959	Males	Government	183
2.	Shri C. K. Mehta Primary Teachers Training College	Palanpur	1972	Males	Non-Government	50
3.	Stree Adhyapan Mandir	Balaram	1963	Females	Non-Government	89

Source: District Education Officer, Banaskantha District, Palanpur.

SCHOOL BUILDING

The problem of housing due to the increasing number of pupils in the schools, is also an important item in development programme.



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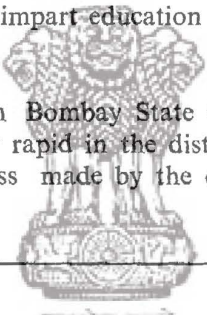
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On the eve of Independence, there were 68 primary school buildings in the district. For construction of primary school buildings an intensified programme was initiated during the First Five Year Plan and continued in the Second, Third and Fourth Plan periods with much success. The number of school buildings which was 96 at the end of the First Five Year Plan increased to 731 in 1970-1971. During the year 1973-74 there were 1,375 primary schools in the district of which 742 had their own buildings and 633 had rented buildings. During the same period 114 new school buildings were also constructed.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

The secondary education constitutes a vital link between the primary and the higher education. Broadly speaking, secondary schools are intended to impart education suitable for pupils in the stage of adolescence.

After merger with Bombay State the progress of secondary education has been very rapid in the district. The following statement shows the progress made by the district in the field of secondary education:



Year	No. of schools	Boys	Girls	Total	No. of Teachers	Ratio of Pupils per Teacher
1950-51	5	922	136	1,058	50	21.15
1956-57	12	1,779	261	2,040	79	25.82
1961-62	28	4,575	434	5,009	214	23.40
1966-67	37	7,289	1,142	8,431	357	23.61
1973-74	54	10,347	1,920	12,267	577	20.54

Source :

District Education Officer, Banaskantha District, Palanpur.

The above statement shows a remarkable growth between 1956-57 to 1973-74, when there was addition of 42 new schools and 10,227 students. The percentage increase for the schools was 285.71 and for students was 166.29 per cent during the same period.



There is no significant change in pupils-teacher ratio, during the period 1950-51 to 1973-74.

Out of 54 secondary schools in the district, 2 are run by the Government of Gujarat, 7 are managed by local bodies, of which two are run by the Nagar Panchayats and five are run by the Gram Panchayat and the rest are under various educational trusts.

The number of students appearing and passing the Secondary School Certificate Examination during the period, 1961-1973 is shown below :

Year	Appeared		Passed		Percentages of Result	
	March	October	March	October	March	October
1961	656	..	257	..	39.18	36.65
1966	993	322	548	118	55.19	36.65
1971	1,231	305	688	110	55.89	36.07
1972	1,293	217	771	108	59.63	49.77
1973	1,371	293	858	112	62.58	38.23

Secondary education has been made free from 1972 onwards throughout the State.

Distribution of Villages Having Secondary School facilities by Distance from the Nereast Town.

In the rural areas, there are 33 (2.44) villages having secondary schools. Students from the rest of the villages get their education from these schools. The details of such schools and the villages with distance from the nearest town are as under:

Distance	No. of villages.	No. of villages having schools.
5 km. or less	65	2(3.08 p. c.)
6—25 km	606	15(2.48 p. c.)
26—50 km	515	14(2.72 p. c.)
51 km or above	164	2(1.22 p. c.)
Total	1,350	33(2.44)

Source : District Census Handbook 1971, Part X—A & B, Banaskantha.



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There are only two villages having secondary schools in the group of 65 villages which are at the distance of 5 km. or less from the nearest town. In the second group of 606 villages which are at a distance of 6 to 25 km. from the nearest town, there are only 15 secondary schools. In the third group of 515 villages which are at a distance of 26 to 50 km. from the nearest town, there are only 14 secondary schools. In the last group of 164 villages which are at a distance of 51 km. or above there are only 2 secondary schools.

Only 2.44 villages of the total (1,350) are having secondary schools. This reflects very poor facilities of the secondary schools for the villages. In other words, it can be said that secondary education is not widely spread in the rural areas of this district.

STATEMENT XV.6

The Area per School and the Population Served by each School

Sl. No.	Name of the taluka	Area in sq. km.	Population	No. of Secondary schools 1971	Area covered per school in sq.km.	Population per school
1.	Palanpur ..	1,471.1	228,944	15	98.0	15,263
2.	Vadgam ..	564.6	112,630	12	47.00	9,386
3.	Deesa ..	1,481.0	195,443	5	296.0	39,088
4.	Kankrej ..	821.6	116,468	2	410.8	58,234
5.	Radhanpur ..	595.7	63,572	2	297.8	31,786
6.	Santalpur ..	1,351.6	55,652	1	1,351.6	55,652
7.	Deodar ..	1,012.0	107,179	2	506.0	53,589
8.	Vav ..	1,701.2	97,262	1	1,701.2	97,262
9.	Tharad ..	1,358.1	109,058	1	1,358.1	109,058
10.	Dhanera ..	1,190.2	108,432	2	595.1	54,216
11.	Danta ..	857.2	70,743	3	285.7	23,581
District Total		12,702.0	1,265,383	46	276.0	27,508

Source :

- (1) *District Census Handbook* 1971, Banaskantha, Part X—A & B.
- (2) District Education Officer, Banaskantha, Palanpur.



In the year 1971-72 there were 46 secondary schools in the district. Areas covered per schools were 276.6 sq. km. and the population covered per school was 27,508. These averages reveal low levels of secondary education in the district.

It is interesting to note that about 27 or 56.4 per cent of the schools were located in the two talukas of Palanpur and Vadgam, covering only 16.00 per cent of the total area of the district, and having only 27.00 per cent of the district population.

As against this, there were only 19 schools in the rest of the talukas, covering 84.00 per cent of the total area and 73.00 per cent of the population of the district.

This fact reveals that secondary education has not yet progressed satisfactorily in this area, where generally backward class and tribal people reside. The progress is uneven.

Post Basic Schools—There are two post basic secondary schools with agriculture and their details are as under:

Sl. No.	Name and Location	Taluka	Year of establishment	Management	No. of students 1974-75		
					Boys	Girls	Total
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Nootan Bharati Vidyalaya, Gadh-Madana.	Palanpur	1960-61	Private	85	4	89
2.	Vinay Mandir, Lokniketan, Ratanpur.	Palanpur	1961	Lokniketan, Palanpur.	162	4	166

The hostel facilities are also provided to the student.

MULTIPURPOSE SCHOOLS

A Multipurpose School is a high school with provision for a variety of courses from which students can choose according to their psychological and vocational needs.

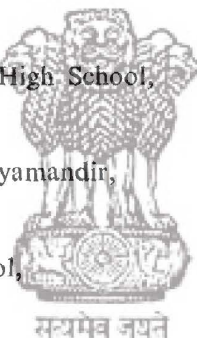


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The Government of India appointed the Secondary Education Commission in 1952, under the chairmanship of Dr. A. Lakshman-swamy Mudaliar, to review the entire field of secondary education. One of the important recommendations of the commission was pertaining to establishment of multipurpose schools as a corrective to the existing “Single Track” system. In these institutions, the provision is also made in the curriculum for subjects like fine arts, technology, commerce, agriculture and home-science in addition to general subjects. In the year 1974, there were 5 schools as under:

<i>Name of the School</i>	<i>Type of Streams</i>
1. Sheth K. B. Vakil, Multipurpose High School, Radhanpur.	Commerce.
2. Sir Charles Watson High School, Deesa.	Music and Painting, Commerce.
3. Shri Vividhlakshi Vidyamandir, Palanpur.	Commerce and Technical, Fine Arts.
4. Palanpur High School, Palanpur.	Commerce and Technical.
5. Government Girls' High School, Palanpur.	Home Science.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education in the modern sense had its beginning in the State after 1854. There were isolated gymnasia conducted by individuals interested in physical education. Freedom Movement created enthusiasm among the young men to do something for the country, and physical education was one of the most important activities for them. At present, physical education is curricular subject in general but a compulsory subject in the primary and secondary schools of the State. At the primary level, one period per day is allotted to physical education in the State. From 1974, physical education has been introduced as a voluntary subject in the



S. S. C. Examination. The teacher to be qualified in physical education is required to be "C. P. Ed. (under graduate) or D. P. Ed. (graduate)" The details of these activities and schemes sponsored in the district are described below.

District sports were organised in November every year by the District Sports Committee under the presidentship of the Collector and the District Education Officer as Secretary.

After 1973, this pattern is discontinued and sports competitions are now held twice in every year as autumn and winter meet under the auspices of All India Schools Games Federation under the control of the District Sports Council, which is a Statutory Body framed (constituted) by the Government of Gujarat; whose Chairman is the District Education Officer and Secretary is a Government servant under the control of the Director of Youth and Cultural Activities, Gujarat State.

Sports competitions are held twice (the autumn meet and the winter meet) every year at the district and at the National level for secondary schools only. Generally sports competitions are held at Taluka level in September-October, in November-December at the district level, and at the State level in January. The competitions are held for three categories of participants (1) Age-group 1-15 years, (2) Age-group 15-18 years and (3) Open for all.

In the year 1972, in this district, 2,208 students participated at taluka level sports competitions. Out of these, 1,055 participated at the district level competitions. 98 participants were sent at the State level competitions held at Gandhinagar in the year 1972.

In the year 1972 sports competitions (for secondary schools) were held at the district level and the number of participants were 302 in autumn meet and 352 in winter meet. At the State level, the number of participants was 82 in the autumn and 77 in the winter meet sports competitions.

Following are some of the voluntary institutions promoting sports and physical education:

- (1) Shri P. H. Mehta Sarvajanic Vyayam Shala, Palanpur.



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(2) Shri Sarvodaya Vyayam Vidyalaya, Magarvada. (T. Vadgam)

(3) Shri Motilal Nehru Vyayam Shala, Tharad. (T. Tharad).

The National Physical Efficiency Drive

The Union and the State Governments as well as the voluntary sports and other physical educational institutions are adopting various measures to make our people conscious about physical fitness. The Scheme of National Physical Efficiency Drive has been implemented by the Government of India from 1959. It was implemented in this district in 1962. The purpose of this drive is to create consciousness and enthusiasm amongst the young people of the country for physical fitness and to stimulate their interest for physical welfare which will help them to a better and more healthy living. The Drive is also expected to assess factors such as strength, speed, ability and endurance, which go to make a person physically efficient:

The tests for the N.P.E.D. are conducted separately for men and women every year in the month of September. They are also further classified for various age-groups as under:

Men

Junior group	I	Below 18 years.
Senior group	II	18 to 34 years.
Senior group	III	35 to 44 years.
Senior group	IV	45 years and above.

Women

Junior Group	I	Below 16 years.
Senior Group	II	16 to 30 years.
Senior Group	III	31 years and above.

Each item of the test has three standards laid down from moderately easy to fairly difficult. The highest standard is the "Three Star" standard, the next "Two-Star", and the easiest "One Star". The idea is that those who pass all the prescribed items at the Three-Star level will be awarded a Three-Star badge specially designed for the purpose. Those who pass all the items in the second stand-



award will be awarded a Two-Star badge and those passing in the third group will get the One-Star badge. The winning and wearing of these badges is considered as a mark of distinction in physical fitness and efficiency. In addition to the badges, each successful competitor is awarded a certificate indicating his/her level of achievement.

In 1973-74, the following men-women participated for the different tests and were awarded Star:

		<i>Participated</i>	<i>Succeeded</i>
Junior Group Men			
„	One Star	1,334	1,263
„	Two Star	769	501
„	Three Star	45	23
Junior Group Women			
„	One Star	611	404
„	Two Star	258	179
„	Three Star	11	8
Senior Group Men			
„	One Star	84	50
„	Two Star	74	41
„	Three Star	17	11
Senior Group Women			
„	One Star	64	33
„	Two Star	18	8
„	Three Star	..	..

In 1973--74, 26 centres were selected for these tests.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Before the formation of the separate State of Gujarat, there was no institution for higher education in the district and the students used to join colleges at Bhavnagar, Ahmadabad and Poona. Muslim students used to join Bahauddin College, Junagadh as they were awarded free studentships and scholarships by the Junagadh State. After the formation of the Gujarat State, Banaskantha Arts and Science College was started at Palanpur from June, 1964,



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and subsequently Arts and Commerce Colleges were established at Deesa in 1969 and Shri D. D. Chokshi College of Secondary Education at Palanpur in 1971. A brief description of each is given below.

Banaskantha Arts and Science College, Palanpur

The college was established in 1964. In the Arts section, the college conducts classes upto the B. A. degree courses and in Science section upto B.Sc. courses. The college is housed in a rented building with the hostel facilities for college students. The number of students on its roll was 523 (415 boys and 108 girls) in the year 1972-73. The library has 12,000 books. The college is managed by the Banaskantha District Kelavani Mandal, Palanpur.

The Deesa Nagar Panchayat Arts and Commerce College, Deesa

This college was established in 1969. It conducts classes upto the B. A. and B.Com. degrees. The college is housed in a rented building. It also provides hostel facilities for 25 students. The number of students on the roll was 390 (345 boys and 45 girls) in the year 1973-74. The college is managed by the Sardar Patel Education Foundation, Deesa.

Shri D. D. Chokshi College of Secondary Education, Palanpur

This college was established in the year 1971. It trains teachers for the B.Ed. degree. The number of students on its roll was 66 (50 boys and 16 girls). The college is managed by Shri Palanpur Jain Shishushala, Balmandir and Education Trust, Palanpur.

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Before Independence there was no institution imparting technical Education as the district was backward and depended mainly on agriculture. After Independence, the important institutions started in the district are noted below.

(1) *Government Technical High School, Palanpur*

The School was established in 1955. At present it is run by the Government of Gujarat. It conducts classes for (I) work-



shop technology grade--1, (2) geometrical and machine drawing, (3) elements of electrical and mechanical engineering. The number of students on its roll was 110 in 1974-75. The institution is housed in its own building.

(2) *Industrial Training Institute, Palanpur*

The institute was established in the year 1963, as a Government institute. It conducts various technical courses for electrician, fitter, machinist (comp.), turner, wiremen, engine-cum-mechanic, general mechanic, rural workshop mechanic, etc. All the above courses are of two years duration, while courses of mechanics-diesel, and weldar are of one year duration. During the year 1974-75, there were 193 students on its roll with 19 members on the teaching staff. The institution is housed in its own building.*

COURSES IN COMMERCE

Commercial education in the State is provided through three types of institutions: (1) the Commerce Colleges, (2) the Commercial High Schools and the Multi-purpose schools with Commerce as a course and (3) the Commercial Institutions.

There is only one Commerce College at Deesa in the district. It is managed by the Sardar Patel Education Foundation.

The commercial high schools and multi-purpose schools provide a pre-vocational course of commercial education along with general education. These schools provide instructions in such courses at short-hand, type-writing, book-keeping and accountancy. The course extends over four years, (Std. VIII to XI.).

Following are the educational institutions teaching commercial courses (1973):

<i>Educational Institutions</i>	<i>Pupils</i>
1. Vividhlaxi Vidyamandir, Palanpur	176
2. Government Technical-cum-Commerce Centre, Palanpur	163
3. Sheth K. B. Vakil Vividhlaxi Vidyalaya, Radhanpur. .	111
4. Sardar Patel High School, Nava Deesa	41

*Director of Technical Education, Government of Gujarat, Ahmada bad.



Over and above these, there are private commercial institutions conducting classes in type-writing, short-hand, and G.C.D. and G.C.C. courses.

ORIENTAL EDUCATION

Sanskrit

For Sanskrit learning, the language schools called *pathshalas* were centres of educational activities. In the past, instructions in Sanskrit Grammar, Vedas, Mimansa, Philosophy, Logic, etc., were given to inmates. In teaching, emphasis was placed on memorising the text. At present, Sanskrit *Pathshala* prepares students for various examinations such as *Kavyatirtha*, *Acharya*, *Shastri*, etc. There is only one Sanskrit Pathshala in the district located at Ambaji in the Danta taluka. The number of students on its roll in the year 1973-74 was 31.

*Madrasah*¹

Madrasahs¹ are educational institutions for the Muslims. In Madrasah generally religious instruction is imparted along with other subjects, viz., Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Philosophy and Morals. In this district Madrasah Islamia Darul Uloom at Chhapi is a known Madrasah of Mahendavia Muslims. It was established in 1954. The Madrasah, besides preparing primary students upto VII Std., gives training in Arabic, Persian, English and Urdu. It also imparts religious instructions. The Boarding attached to this Madrasah admits students free. Only for food, it charges Rs. 40 per month. The books except Gujarati ones are given free to the students. There is also provision for free lodging and boarding for the poor students on merits. Students stay in the school for 12 years. Thereafter they pursue occupation of their choice. There are two sections in this Madrasah, viz., Gujarati and Urdu. In Gujarati section, the number of students on the roll in the year 1973-74 was 250. In the Urdu section the number of students was 175.

These students come from various places in the State and also from Maharashtra, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Manipur. The total number of teachers was 19 (13 for religious instruction, 1 for English and 5 for Gujarati). There is also a provision for teaching, sewing and embroidery.

1. Madrasah Islamia Darul Uloom, Chhapi no Varshik Report, 1974.



EDUCATION FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Welfare of the physically handicapped is now one of the important activities of the Directorate of Social Defence. The physically handicapped children are provided pre-vocational and vocational training in various crafts and industries in educational institutions. Subjects like : tailoring, carpentry, weaving, printing and book-binding, cane-work and coir-work are taught in such institutions. Blind children are educated along with other children in normal schools, so as to bring about in them integrated personality and healthy out-look towards life. In this district, Shri M. K. Mehta School for the Blind at Palanpur was started by the Palanpur Jain Shishushala, Balmandir and Education Trust in 1963. The number of students during the year 1972-73 was 28 in this school. Some students from the above mentioned institution appeared at the S. S. C. Examination and passed with credit. The Vividhlaxi Vidya-mandir of Palanpur takes special care for the education of the blind students.

Ma Shravan Vani Kendra a training institution for deaf and dumb children at Palanpur, was started in 1974 by the same management (as above). It gives training for Std. 1st. The number of students on its roll was 16. It is a residential school, but it is not recognised by the Department of Social Defence.

SOCIAL EDUCATION

Besides the spread of literacy, the aim of social education is to prepare responsible citizen who can participate with understanding in the activities around him and develop his latent faculties. In order to achieve these wider objectives, the programme of social education needed to be oriented to meet the local needs and conditions as well as to the cultural level of the particular locality covered. Efforts were made to promote adult education in the district.

In 1960-61, intensive drive to make people literate was undertaken in Community Development Blocks and in certain cases, the whole village was adopted for 100 per cent literacy. The Taluka and the Beat Officers were given the target of making 100 persons literate in the second test and 250 persons in the first test. In the Block, Social Education Officer looked after it, while in non-Block areas, Assistant



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Deputy Education Inspector looked after it. The regional Social Education Committee sanctioned the grant at the rate of Rs. 4 and 5 for every adult made literate. They are also provided with small boxes with 100 books or 500 books for neo-literates. The present trend is to associate literacy with vocation of the people which gives them knowledge about the technique of their vocation. The progress achieved so far is as under :

Year	No of Social Education Classes in the district			Adult made literate		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
1951--52	26	1	27	164	3	167
1956--57	94	3	97	955	61	1,016
1961--62	53	2	55	617	14	631
1966--67	83	28	111	1,263	452	1,715
1971--72	6	1	7	104	25	129
1973--74	20	..	20	501	..	501

In the year 1965, intensive measures were taken to remove illiteracy from the district. The District Education Committee in the year 1967 had tried to wipe out illiteracy completely in Vadgam Taluka. Despite these efforts, the Banaskantha district ranked last both in rural and urban literacy according to 1971 Census. In 1974, Kankrej taluka was selected for total eradication of illiteracy and some result was achieved as a result of a concentrated drive.

EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT

In the early stages, the Government and the chiefs were solely responsible for promoting modern education. After Independence, conditions began to change. Public spirited and enthusiastic persons formed educational societies to promote education of the people. Thus private enterprise also played its role in the field of secondary education in the former Bombay State. Local bodies like municipalities and gram panchayats also took a lead where local leaders were not coming forth. The general policy of the Government of Gujarat also was that secondary education should be conducted by private agencies



with financial aid from the Government. Some of the leading educational societies in the district are described below :

The Sardar Patel Education Foundation, Deesa

This trust was established in 1969. At present it manages (1) Sardar Patel High School and (2) D. N. P. Arts and Commerce College, Deesa.

The Sarvodaya Ashram, Sanali via, Ambaji

This Ashram was established in the year 1950 to promote education among the Adivasis of this area. It conducts pre-primary, primary and secondary schools in Sanali and in other nearby villages. It also conducts night schools and Gop Shala.

In 1973 the Mandal managed the following institutions :

Name of the institution.	Type of institution	Year of establishment	No. of pupils
1. Pre-primary School, Sanali	Pre-primary	1950	45
2. Primary School, Sanali (Danta Taluka)	Primary	1951	258
3. Primary School, Kukadi (સુર્યમેજી નયતે ,)	,,	1951	65
4. Primary School, Sandhosi (, ,)	,,	1951	82
5. Primary School Navovas (, ,)	,,	1951	50
6. Primary School, Khandhora (, ,)	,,	1951	65
7. Primary School, Dhrangivas (, ,)	,,	1951	40
8. Primary School, Mankanchampa (, ,)	,,	1951	40
9. Secondary School, Sanali (, ,)	,,	1967	40

Banaskantha District Kelavani Mandal, Palanpur

For promoting higher education in the district, this Kelavani Mandal was established in the year 1961, it conducts Arts and Science College at Palanpur.



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Shri Palanpur Jain Shishushala Bal Mandir and Education Trust

With a view to spread education in the surrounding areas, this trust was established in the year 1948 and within a short period of 27 years, the trust had done commandable work by starting a number of educational institutions, for imparting instructions in a various subjects such as arts, education, science, fine arts, industrial training, and training in diamond cutting and polishing. The trust is doing very useful service to the public in the field of education. It is well-knit and well organised institution and stands as a coveted destination. The various activities undertaken by this management are detailed as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the institution	Date of establishment	Type of institution	No. of students 1974
1.a	Shri Jain Balmandir	1951	Kindergarten School	100
b.	C. R. Mehta Balmandir	1967	Kindergarten School	100
2.	Shri Jain Shishushala	1951	Primary School (I-IV)	540
3.	Shri Vividhlaxi Vidyamandir	1956	Primary School (V-VII)	410
		1956	Multipurpose High School (VIII-XI)	768
4.	Shri P. H. Mehta Smarak Vyayam Shala.	1959	Gymnasia	115
5.	Smt. M. K. Mehta School for Blind.	1963	School for Blind.	30
6.	D. D. Chokshi College of Secondary Education.	1971	B. Ed. College.	71
7.	N. D. Parikh Memorial Institute of Commerce Education.	1971	Commercial	..
8.	Abhinav Bharti Vidyalaya.	1971	Std. V. to VII (Hindi Medium)	100
9.	C. K. Mehta, College of Primary Education.	1972	P. T. C. College	90
10.	Shri C. M. Kothari Hostel	1973	Hostel for college students.	...
11.	Ma Shravan Vani Kendra	1974	School for Deaf	20

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Balaram Saghankshetra Samiti, Chitrasani

This institution had started its activities with the establishment of Kasturba Kanya Chhatralaya in the year 1958. At present it conducts one free residential primary school with 150 adivasi children, one free residential high school with 75 Backward Class students and one Stree Adhyapan Mandir with 150 students. A hostel is attached to it.

Over and above these, it manages the following institutions :
(1) two Ashram Schools, (2) two Backward-Class hostels, (1 for boys and 1 for girls), (3) one Agriculture Centre and (4) One Industrial Centre.

In all 470 students are taking training in these institutions.

Lokniketan, Ratanpur (Taluka Palanpur)

This institution was established in the year 1961 with a view to spreading education among the village people of the district. At present the following institutions are under its management :

1. Vinay Mandir (Post-Basic School) Std. VIII to XI.
2. Kumar Chhatralaya, Lokniketan, Ratanpur (for Scheduled Castes students).
3. Kanya Chhatralaya, Lokniketan, Ratanpur (For Scheduled Tribes).
4. Ashram School, Lokniketan, Ratanpur.
5. Vicharti Jati Balwadi, Ratanpur.
6. Gaushala.

CULTURE

The relations of this district with Marwad, Rajasthan and Sindh are significant. In the past people migrating from the west through Baluchistan, Sindh, Punjab and Rajasthan made their way to



Saurashtra and Gujarat through this region, leaving behind some trails of their culture in this region.

Very little has been done in the direction of archaeological researches in this district. A cursory survey has shown that all through the course of river Banas, a chain of historical sites pointing out the cultural background have been traced. These are dealt with in detail in history chapter. Antiquities such as terracottas, sculptures, pottery, etc., have been discovered at a number of places throughout the district. Zekada in Santalpur taluka was the centre of Harappan culture in Banaskantha district.

Before the advent of Aryans in this region, the area was inhabited by aborigines like Bhils, Nagas, etc. The Bhrigus of Atharvavedic tradition seem to have come to the north Gujarat region even earlier than the Sharyati Manava and his tribe. Places connected with Chyavana, Dadhichi, Rama Jamadagnya, Pippalad, etc., of Bhrigu branch are said to be near Siddhapur and along the Sarasvati river according to Puranic traditions.

The vedic story of Chyavana, Sukanya and the Ashvina twins is connected with Anartpur or Vadnagar which is situated in the adjacent region of Mahesana district. According to one story Arjun escorted the widows and children of the Yadavas, slain in the great Yadavasthali massacre, and was way-laid here by the Abhiras. Popular legend connects this event with a village Ramsan (Kaba-ni-Ramsan) of Deesa taluka. The Kabas referred to here were the Abhiras, who are still found in this district. No information is available about people and culture of the period after the coming of Aryans in Gujarat but it seems that Huns and Gurjars must have come to this region through the valley of Abu and must have settled here. In the village Mota of Palanpur taluka, Rabaris bear the surnames of Huns which is significant. They might have migrated with Gurjars in this part of Gujarat during fifth and sixth century.

Buddhists and Jains also made their cultural impact on the people of this region. Tharad or Tharapadra was known as ‘Kashi in miniature’ among the Jains and must have been a centre of learning as is testified by the rich Bhandar of manuscripts. Chavdas, and Gurjar Pratihars ruled over this region. The Gurjar Pratihars had their citadel at Shrimala or *Bhinnamala*. People from Southern Rajas-



than migrated here after the destruction of Bhinnamala by the Muslims. The Bhils living in the remote and the hilly and forest areas of Aravali have to a certain extent, still preserved their own culture and language.

During the Chavada and the Chaulukya periods, people from Southern Rajasthan, especially Jains, Guptas, Agravals, Shrimali Vanias and Brahmans, Porvad and Oswal Vanias migrated to north Gujarat through Tharad and through the Abu valley. Vav and part of Tharad is still known as Nani Marvad. These migrants made great impact on cultural life of this region. The coming of a thousand Brahman families from *udichi*-North, was a great event in the cultural history of this part of Gujarat. The Audichyas brought with them the freshness of Vedic culture, which provided a great stimulus to the cultural life of Gujarat. Jainism made a lasting impact on the cultural life of the people. Marvadis, Guptas and Agravals who came from North (Rajasthan, Uttarpradesh and Punjab) have still preserved some of their social and cultural customs and have influenced the local people. Later on Sachora, Disaval Brahmans, Gardeners (Malis) Balucha, Sindhis, Pathans, etc., migrated to this district from Rajasthan, Sindh and Baluchistan in search of livelihood.

During the reign of the Chaulukyas of Gujarat (942-1299 A.D.), the centre of Gujarati culture was transferred from Bhinnamala to Anahilwad Patan.

The Solanki rulers and their ministers were great patrons of learning. Among them Vimal Shah, Munjal, Udayan, Santu Mehta, Vastupal and Tejpal, the ministers of Solanki kings had made remarkable contribution in enriching the culture of Gujarat. Santyacharya, Suracharya, Hemchandracharya, Shripal, etc., were famous Jain Savants of this period. Patan was the principal seat of learning where Jain monks from various parts of the country settled. During this period, in language and culture, Gujarat was one with Marwad, Malwa and Mevad. Patan (North Gujarat) was the richest city and the centre of culture.¹ Vastupal and Tejpal, the ministers of Viradhavala built the magnificent temples at Mt. Abu in Rajasthan and Kumbharia in this district.

After the invasion of Gujarat by Allauddin Khalaji, Gujarat came slowly under the sway of Muslim rulers. The whole period

1. MAJMUDAR M. R., *Cultural History of Gujarat*, Bombay, (1965), p. 341.



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from 1300A.D. onwards was a period of turmoil and destruction and nothing important has been left of this period. The Maratha authority over this region was too nominal and so upto the advent of the British, the district had nothing special to offer by way of art, literature and architecture. The modern system of education came into existence during the later half of the 19th century. There were schools at the capitals of the States, while the interior parts were most backward and neglected. The percentage of literacy in the district was the lowest in Gujarat and education of Backward Classes, Muslims and women was almost neglected. The merchant community of Palanpur, Deesa, Radhanpur, Tharad, etc., migrated to other parts of Gujarat and the Palanpuri Jains became famous diamond merchants.

The district, with a hoary past is now on threshold of cultural revolution on account of rapid spread of education among the masses.

LITERATURE

No traces of earlier literary activities in the past in this part of Gujarat have been found. However, Jain Bhandars have been preserved well in Palanpur, Tharad, Radhanpur, and some other places, in this district. On the basis of these and other literary records, following observation can be made about the literary activities of the region.

Siddharaja Jaisinha (1094-1143 A.D.) like Parmar Bhoja was a great patron of learning and many notable *pandits*, both Jains and Hindus found encouragement at his court. Many scholars like Bhava Brihaspati, Deva Bodhi, and Shripala had contributed to the development of various branches of knowledge. Acharaya Malayagiri wrote commentaries on many Jain Agama scriptures. Many other scholars like Arisimha, Amarchandra and Harihara were encouraged to pursue literary activities and they wrote a number of plays, poems and essays.¹ He brought to Patan the treasure house of books belonging to the king Bhoja of Malva and encouraged the scholar Hemachandra to write a treatise on grammar entitled "*Siddhahaiema*". He generously rewarded many scholars like Vagbhata etc., and thus made Gujarat a real centre of culture and learning².

1. Gazetteer of India, Mehsana District, Gujarat State, 1975, p. 679.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 672.



The Jain monks-from early times became a cultural force in Gujarat. The rich middle class of this period longed for some literary entertainment, which without putting an undue strain on its religious zeal, could give a sense of spiritual security. Through Dharma Kathas they provided popular entertainment. The common element in all the religious discourses which were nothing but classical legends, legendary lives of saints, moral tales and anecdotes moulded to religious teachings, was an insistence on the purity of Jainism and on the greatness of the gospel of renunciation under every circumstance.¹

Hemachandracharya, and Vastupala, latter made Gujarat eminent in the field of learning, literature and architecture. Before them, there were many scholars like Suracharya, Abhayadev, the author of the Navangi commentary, Shantisuri and Devasuri who strove in this direction.

Prahladanadeva, who was the brother of Parmara King Dharsavarsa of Abu and after whom the town Prahaladanapura i.e., modern Palanpur was named, composed *parthparkrama Vyayoga* in V.S. 1226 (1170 A.D.). It was played at the behest of the king at Achaleshvara temple on Mt. Abu, on the occasion of the hoisting of the Banner on the temple. Vijayapala composed *Draupadi Svayamavara*. It was staged at Patan at *Tripurusaprasada* on the occasion of the Spring festival, at the wishes of Bhimadeo II (1178--1241 A.D.).²

Ramachandra Suri, a disciple of Hemachandra Suri, composed about eleven dramas, some of which might have been staged during his life-time. His *Nalavilasa* and *Kaumudi Mitrananda* are now available in print.³

Yashpala, minister to Ajayapala, composed a moral play named *Mohaparajaya* between V. Samat 1229 and 1232 (1173-1176 A.D.). This play was performed on the occasion of the *Mahavir-awani Yatra mahotsava* at Tharad in the Kumara-Vihara⁴.)

The literature of this time-as seen through the remnants of folk-poetry and preserved as illustrations in the "Siddha Hajema"

1. MAJMUDAR, M. R., 'Gujarat : Its Art-Heritage', 1968, p. 108, (Literature).
2. *Ibid.*, p. 121.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 122.
4. *Ibid.*



grammar of Hemachandra Suri, the popular love-poem “*Munja-Rasa*” about King Munja, and (*Prabandha--chintamani*) (Samvat 1361), the semi-historical events of great men of the times- was mythological, religious, didactic and heroic.¹

Other eminent scholars named Asesh Vidyaparag Dirgacharya and his son Durlabhacharya flourished at the court of the king Sidharaja. The great logician-poet Vadiraja, composed two works on logic, viz., *Pramana Nirnaya* and *Navavivinis chayavivarana*, a work on duties of house-holders, Upaskacharaya, a lyrical poem Ekibhavastotra and three other works Aradhana, Samayikapatha and a Adhyatmasataka, on meditation and spiritual practices.²

The period (circa 1200 to 1300 A.D.) during which Vaghelas ruled over Gujarat represented a century of great activity in the fields of literature and art. The rulers, Lavanaprasada, Viradhavala and Visaladeva were warriors, administrators and were also patrons of literature. The two minister-brothers Vastupala and Tejapala were also patrons of art and architecture, sculpture, painting and calligraphy. They erected temples and patronized art. They got many Sanskrit, Prakrit and Apabhramasa manuscripts copied, and founded *bhandaras* (libraries) at a cost of Rs. 18 crores at Patan, Khambhat, etc.³

The Muslim invasion of Gujarat brought destruction of temples and architecture and centres of learning and culture. Patan and Chandravati were no longer centres of culture. Many eminent scholars left Gujarat in search of safety and livelihood and with them departed the glory of Gujarat.

This age is remarkable on account of two notable *prabandha* works: (i) The Kanhadde Prabandha (1512 Samvat) by Padmanabha a Visnagara Nagar, is an epic of great age that was fast fading into oblivion. It provides a brilliant picture of the epic heroism displayed by the people of Gujarat, in their fight with Muslim invaders, (ii) The Vimalaprabandha (1561 Samvat) by Muni Lavanyasamaya narrates the glories of that illustrious minister Vimalashah of Bhimadeo-I, who was a great patron of art and letters.⁴

1. MAJMUDAR M. R., *Cultural History of Gujarat*, Bombay, 1965, p. 341.
2. ‘The Struggle for empire, *History and Culture of the Indian People*, pp. 433-435, (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay).
3. MAJMUDAR M. R., ‘*Gujarat: Its Art-Heritage*’, 1968, p. 108.
4. MAJMUDAR M. R., *Cultural History of Gujarat*, Bombay, 1965, p. 342.



Abhaya Tilaka Suri wrote a commentary on the Dvyashraya kavya of Hemchandra Suri in 1255 A.D. in Palanpur. He wrote "Vira Rasa" a poem in about 1261 A. D.

Soma Sundara Suri probably a contemporary of Abhaya Tilak Suri wrote a poem "Soma saubhagya" giving beautiful description of the town of Palanpur.

Jinodaya Suri who was born, at Palanpur in Vikrama Samvata 1379, of Rudrapala and Dhara devi, his former name being samara wrote a poem "Trivikrama Rasa".

Hira Vijaya Suri the supreme pontiff of the Svetambar branch of the Jain church, and the most outstanding personaltiy in the religious history of Jainism was born in 1526 at the ancient town of Palanpur in Banaskantha District.

The Emperor, Akbar invited him to his court in 1582. He sent a more direct invitation to Hiravijaya through the Jain sangh or congregation at Agra. On June 7, 1583, the distinguished traveller, escorted by sixty seven monks, reached Fatehpur-Sikri. He met Abul Fazl there and was introduced to the Emperor, who was much impressed by his learned discourse. Hiravijayaji stayed at Sikri and Agra for over two years. He sent his ablest lieutenant Vijayasena Suri, to the Mughal court. The latter started from Radhanpur on 27th of November 1592, with a batch of 100 monks. His stay at this capital extended for a period of about two years, till the news of his superior's declining health led him to ask for permission to return to Gujarat in 1595. Hiravijaya Suri died at Una in Junagadh district in 1595. His main works are: "Dvadasha jalpa vichara" "Parshvanath stava" and some other works. His house near Mota Derasar in Palanpur has been preserved as his memorial.¹

Dev Vimala Suri, a later contemporary of Hira Vijaya Suri wrote the Mahakavya "Hira saubhagya" depicting Hira Vijaya's life and achievements. He has given a picturesque description of the town of Palanpur in this poem.

Saranga, probably Charana wrote in Sanskrit, a commentary, 'Subodha Manjari' based on a Gujarati commentary written by some

¹ I. COMMISSARIAT M. S., A History of Gujarat, Vol.II, Ahmedabad, 1957, pp. 229-244.



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Lakha Barot on “*Kisan Rukmini-ri-beli*” poem in old western Rajasthani.¹

SOME OF THE LITERARY MEN AND ARTISTS OF RECENT PAST AND PRESENT

Sufi Poet Anvar Kazi (1833-1916 A.D.) came from Visnagar and made his permanent stay at saint Murshid Sahib’s place in Palanpur. His devotional *padas* of Krishna theme and *sufi gazals* are of very high poetic order. His works are compiled in a book “*Anvar Kavya*” published later.

Din Darvesh was the disciple of Anvar Sahib. He was a Hindu lohar of the village Vornavada in Vadgam taluka. So deep was the influence of Anvar kazi on him that in later life he adopted Islam and was known as “Din Darvesh.” His poems in the *savaiyas* and *Rekta* metres in Gujarati are highly philosophical. They are preserved in oral traditions.

Saiyedlal Miya ‘Lal’ an Urdu poet of Merit, belonged to the famous *saiyed* family of Palanpur. His grand son Mota Miyan Ali miya *saiyed* also composed poems under the name “*Ojas Palanpuri*. Lal’s works are published in *Kulliyate Lal*.

After serving Sayaji Rao Gaikwar of Baroda for a short period, he settled at Palanpur.

Lashkar Khan, hailed from the Baloch family of Palanpur. He lived during the reign of Nawab *Talemohmedkhan*. His satires and wits in the local dialect are still very popular and some of his couplets are still commonly used by the people of this district.

Salim Gathamnvi, hailing from Gathamn a village near Palanpur wrote *sufi gazals* in Urdu and Gujarati.

Surajmal Zaveri, wrote songs and *gazals* in Gujarati.

Ojas Palanpuri, the grand son of Lal miyan *Saiyed*, was a promising poet. Unfortunately he met with pre-mature death by snake bite. He wrote both in Gujarati and Urdu.

1. દેસાઈ મોહનલાલ દલીપસિંહ, જૈન ગુર્જર કવિઓ, ભાગ ૧-૨.



“*Shunya Palanpuri*” is the gem among Palanpuri shayars. He has earned a name all over Gujarat. Shri Alikhan Usman Khan Baloch belongs to the family of Lashkerkhan Baloch. His poems are published in some volumes like સૂન્ય સર્ગ and others. He has translated in Gujarati some of the rubayats of Omar Khayyam. At present he works in editorial section of “Mumbai Samachar” a reputed Gujarati daily of Bombay.

“*Saif Palanpuri*” or Saifuddin Kharawala of Palanpur is a prolific writer of novels and poems in Gujarati. He is Bohra by caste.

“*Musafir Palanpuri*” or Amirmohmed Din Mohmed Sindhi, is a young shayar of great promise. He writes in Gujarati, Urdu and local Muslim dialect.

Among the modern Gujarati novelists, Chandrakanta Baxi of Palanpur is well-known. His novels and short-stories well betray existentialism. Shri Hargovind Shah of Radhanpur was a great scholar of Prakrit. His monumental dictionary “*Paia sadda Mahannavo*” the ocean of the words in “Prakrit language” was published in early twenty. He served in the Hindu University, Banaras as a professor of Prakrit language.

Fine Art--In this district K. L. Kothari, K. L. Saiyad and A.L. Saiyad are past masters in the art of photography. They have won prizes in many International exhibitions. Amrit Van's paintings of the school of water colour paintings, are of remarkably high merit. He studied painting at the J. J. school of Art, Bombay, Sumati Mohan Van now living in U. S. A. and Gautam Vaghela now in Bombay and Rohit Zaveri are promising artists. Prem Raval has exhibited his pictures in foreign countries also. Parshuram Mehta, the drawing teacher of Radhanpur High School is an artist of merit and his pictures have appeared in “Kumar” a prominent monthly of Gujarat.

Architecture--After the fall of Solanki dynasty the heritage of the golden age it left has been the seed from which Hindu Art in North-Western India was reborn, as soon as more peaceful and tolerant times returned.

The Art of the Solanki reveals a rich elaboration and great sensitiveness as compared to that of the Paramaras and the Cahamanas. The extent of Solanki Art reveals all the symptoms of a mass pro-



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duction, where architectural motifs have been permuted and combined, and figures and scenes have been repeated time and again, notwithstanding a great iconographic variety and delicacy of interpretation. When the Muslim invaders reached Gujarat, the number of highly qualified artists must have been so great that many of them could reach some place of refuge and there they organised another flourishing art-centre.¹

The Jains whose communities can be traced all over Rajputana and Malwa, have been tenacious guardians of the traditions of the past, and especially of the Arts of the past, spending enormous sums on temple-building, sculpture, libraries (Grantha Bhandaras), illustrated manuscripts, metal, casting, wood-works, etc.

*Solanki Art had begun to invade Rajputana after Kumarpala's conversion to Jainism and double matrimonial alliance with Arnoraja Cahamana, as is in evidence in the 'Kirtistambha' at Chitorgarh, and the Gujarati 'torana' of the Mahavira temple at Osia, erected at that time. The Jains who migrated from South Rajasthan, brought with them cultural heritage of their former habitat. They built number of temples in this district at Radhanpur, Bhiladi, Bhoral, Tharad, Deesa and Palanpur which are centres of Jainism. The Jain temples of Kumbharia in this district, are beautiful specimens of the architectural art of 12th century. Their pillars and ceilings are artistically decorated and resemble the Sculpture and carvings of Delwada temples. They are full of beautiful ornamental details in the minutely carved decoration of ceilings, pillars, doorways, panels, niches, etc. They are decorated almost entirely of white marble. The ruins of city of Chandravati, built by Vimal Shah, Commander-in-chief of Bhimdev I, give glimpses of the glorious past of this area. But in the time of the Vaghelas, another wave of monuments in a rich, but rather derivative 'Solanki' style can be traced in other parts of Rajputana, e.g., at Osia and at Didwana in Marwar and at Jaisalmer, etc. As the decline of Mughal Delhi had forced the Mughal artists to find jobs in other parts of India, likewise the decline of Gujarat in the 13th century must have forced many artists working in the Solanki style to make a living amongst the Jaina communities in the less accessible parts of Rajputana.[†] Very few specimen of Muslim architecture in the form of Mosques and Rozas are found in this

1. MAJMUDAR M. R., '*Gujarat : Its Art-Heritage*', 1968, pp. 11-12.

* (1) *Ibid.*, p. 12.

† (2) *Ibid.*, p. 12.



district. There is a mausoleum at Tharad which belongs to the Seventeenth Century. **This monument of the Mughal period is the tomb of one Amir Beg which is built of pure white marble. It bears an inscription of a single line in Persian which runs all round the tomb and is 15 ft. in length and 5 inch in breadth. The epigraph states that the tomb was the resting place of Amir Beg, a martyr, who had severed the heads of many enemies of the faith in battle, and was killed on Monday, the 11th Rajab, H. 1011 (Dec. 15, 1602). The mosque at Malan and Varahi are very old and it seems that an old Hindu temple is converted into a mosque with necessary changes. The palaces of Navab of Radhanpur and Palanpur are of recent origin and are of the British period and the Kirtistambha at Palanpur is also of recent origin. The old palace known as 'Raja-gadhi' has nothing special to offer. The forts at Radhanpur and Palanpur now in ruins and fragments seem to have been constructed during the later half of the eighteenth century or the first decade of the 19th century with suitable change. After independence, Banaskantha has entered into new age with modern facilities of Hospitals, libraries, electricity, cinema, etc.

LIBRARIES

The foundation of library movement in this district was laid by two States, viz, Palanpur and Radhanpur. The Victoria Jubilee Institute Library at Palanpur was established in the year 1872 and the Bismillakhan Bahadur's library was established at Radhanpur in the year 1878. According to the Palanpur State Administration Report for the year 1945-46, there were 5 libraries in the State, namely, Victoria Jubilee Library, Saife Library and 3 Jain libraries. After Independence, a number of libraries were opened at various places with the co-operation of the local people. At present, there are 17 town libraries and 208 village libraries spread over different places of the district. The details of 16 leading libraries are given as below :

** COMMISSARIAT M. S., *A History of Gujarat*, Vol. II, Ahmedabad, 1957, p. 37.



1981 -Banaskantha District Gazetteers Gujarat State (1317)

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DISTRICT GAZETTEER : BANASKANTHA

STATEMENT

Leading Libraries in the Banaskantha

Sl. No.	Location	Taluka	Name of the Library	Year of establishment	Whether housed in its own bldg. or a rented bldg.	Classification Gujarati
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Palanpur	Palanpur	The Victoria Jubilee Institute Library.	1872	Own	12035
2.	Radhanpur	Radhanpur	Shri Bismilla Khanji Library	1978	...	3639
3.	Tharad	Tharad	Shri Tharad Taluka Dolatsinhji Sarvajani Pustakalaya.	1921	Own	5126
4.	Deesa	Deesa	Patel Umedram Jivabhai Library.	1923	Own	3351
5.	Gadh	Palanpur	Jhaveri Laxmi-chand Jethabhai Sarvajani Pustakalaya	1953	Own	2072
6.	Dhanera	Dhanera	Shri Dhanera Bandhu Samaj Sarvajani Pustakalaya (Bal Vibhag)	1953	Own	4088
7.	Vav	Vav	Vav Taluka Sarvajani Pustakalaya	1953	Rented	1251
8.	Thara	Kankrej	Thara Sarvajani Pustakalaya.	1954	..	3538
9.	Vadgam	Vadgam	Vadgam Sarvajani Vanchanaya & Pustakalaya.	1954	Rented	1886
10.	Deodar	Deodar	Jivan Prakash Sarvajani Pustakalaya.	1956	Own	3909
11.	Ambaji	Danta	Ambaji Gram Panchayat Sanchalit Pustakalaya.	1957	Own	2901
12.	Santalpur	Santalpur	Santalpur Taluka Sarvajani Pustakalaya.	1958	Rented	2005
13.	Vadgam	Vadgam	Vadgam Sarvajani Bal Vanchanaya & Pustakalaya	1959	Rented	1237
14.	Dhanera	Dhanera	Shri Dhanera Bandhu Samaj Sarvajani Pustakalaya (Mahila Vibhag)	1969-70	Own	502
15.	Palanpur	Palanpur	Sarkari Jilla Pustakalaya.	1972	Rented	2839
16.	Dhanera	Dhanera	Shri Dhanera Bandhu Samaj Sarvajani Pustakalaya (Moto Vibhag)	1973	Own	9398

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XV.7

District, 1972-73

of books in different languages

Hindi 8	English 9	Marathi 10	Others 11	Total No. of books 12	Type and Management of the Libraries 13
1497	3038	..	310 (Urdu)	16,880	Public Trust
83	744	..	130	4,596	..
120	196	..	1 (Sanskrit)	5,443	By old Tharad State
218	..	..	..	3,569	..
238	10	..	..	2,320	Gram Panchayat
274	71	..	3	4,436	Private
..	..	..	..	1,251	..
25	78	..	..	3,641	..
4	70	..	..	1,960	Private
219	95	..	..	4,223	..
258	82	..	7 (Sanskrit)	3,248	Gram Panchayat
188	97	..	..	2,290	Private
2	1	..	..	1,240	Private
4	..	..	..	506	Private
501	220	..	..	3,560	Government
1268	899	2	266	11,833	Private



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CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

INTRODUCTORY

The Banaskantha district has dry and hot climate. Though subject to very great extremes of cold and heat, its climate is, on the whole, healthy except in September and October. The water of ponds and wells becomes a little brackish in May and June. Being in close proximity of the Rann, the incidence of trachoma (disease of eye) is very high in the district. The water being brackish and scarce also renders people liable to infection from guinea-worm diseases. Moreover, the people in general being economically, socially and educationally backward, have sometime unhygienic habits which give rise to certain diseases.

The district was visited by severe diseases and epidemics several times in the past due to scarcity of drinking water and unhygienic habits of the people. Fever and lung diseases were much prevalent.

Fever was the commonest disease and was usually prevalent from the middle of September to December. Next to fever, chiefly in the cold weather, bronchitis and other affections of the chest were prevalent besides derangement of the digestive organs and diseases of skin and chest.

सत्यमेव जयते

The epidemic of plague was the most dreadful in the past. In the year 1815-16 and 1820 A. D., Radhanpur was visited by a disease very much like plague and so fatal that it carried off about one-half of its population. The disease appeared under two forms, one with swellings in arm-pit and groin, and the other with fever and spitting of blood. No treatment proved of any avail. The bubonic plague appeared four times thereafter. In the year 1896, of the 141 cases reported, 90 were fatal. The epidemic again broke out in the year 1897, taking a toll of 413 lives. Then in 1903, it affected 130 persons of whom 89 died. The disease reappeared in 1906 when in nearly 30 villages near Palanpur were infected and out of the 190 cases 123 proved fatal.¹

1. *Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. 1, 1908, p. 11.



In 1907, plague broke out in few villages of Deodar and Kanrej Thana which were evacuated. It also broke out in Palanpur town which was declared infected from September, 1907. The town was declared free from plague in April, 1908. It affected 500 persons of whom 320 died in Palanpur town. In other areas, 127 persons were affected of whom 95 died.¹

The visitation of plague was severe in the year 1917--18. It affected a population of 67,000 and caused 1,274 attacks and 1,077 deaths. It was found that Ahmadabad infected Deesa cantonment which infected the neighbouring village of Rajpur, from where the disease extended to Palanpur and spread like wild fire to nearly 64 villages.² A plague organisation was established in Bombay State in 1947. The district of Banaskantha got the benefit of the scheme. In the case of plague outbreak, the unit could be deputed to the district.

Next to plague, cholera was another severe epidemic which took a heavy toll of human lives. In 1843, the epidemic of cholera coming from Sidhpur and Patan lasted for about three months. Four years later, in 1847, there was another outbreak of cholera caused by excessive rain. Cholera visited the district again in 1860 and 1864, the outbreak being specially severe in the Dhanera and Deesa sub-division. It was again found prevalent both in 1875 and 1876. In 1878, typhoid fever with choleraic symptom prevailed amongst the European troop in the Deesa camp and in the hot season of 1879 it again broke out in some parts of the district of 689 cases reported 335 were fatal.³ The Palanpur Agency Directory (1919) mentions that the spread of cholera which followed the great famine of 1899 brought down the agricultural population by 30 percent between 1891 and 1901.

Smallpox and measles also raged the district several times till they were brought under some control, after Independence. The past Administration Reports of the Palanpur State recorded about 100 deaths every year due to these diseases.

In 1872, dengue fever was very prevalent over the whole district. Besides the common yearly fever, there were occasional more

1. *Administration Report of the Palanpur State, 1907-08*, p. 9.

2. *Administration Report of the Palanpur State, 1917-18*, p. 9.

3. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency, Kutch, Palanpur and Mahikantha Agency*, Vol. V, (1880), p. 315.



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fatal outbreaks. These epidemics accompanied with cough, diarrhoea, vomiting and swelling of the feet were specially severe in 1862, 1865, 1871, and 1879.

The influenza epidemic broke out very severely in October 1918 and prevailed for two months. The total mortality¹ was reported as under :

Name of the town				Number of deaths
Vav	..	..	..	1,433
Varahi	..	..	..	879
Kankrej	..	..	..	2,208
Deodar	..	..	..	1,982
Santalpur	..	..	..	1,113
Total	..	..	..	7,615

VITAL STATISTICS

Compared to the past, medical facilities have now increased on a large scale. As a result, the epidemics which used to take a heavy toll of human lives in the past are now under control. This has resulted in gradual and steady decline in the death rates. According to the Palanpur Agency Directory, in the beginning of this century the death rate was round about 15 per thousand. Though it slightly came down thereafter, it remained in the neighbourhood of 11 till Independence.

After the introduction of the Five Year Plans, the death rate has gradually come down. According to the Census of 1961, the death rate was as high as 13.2 in the district in the year 1960. It came down to 6.6 in 1972 due to increasing medical facilities and health education.

As regards the birth rate, it was about 12 per thousand at the beginning of this century : it increased further to 25 during the twenties. After Independence, the birth rate was about 23 in the year 1950 which increased to 27.5 in 1960 according to

1. *Administration Report of the Palanpur State, 1918--19.*



the Census of 1961. Due to the emphasis given on the family planning programme, the birth rate has since fallen down gradually. It was 18.7 per thousand in 1972.

The following statement gives the birth and death rates along with the infant mortality during the last three years :

STATEMENT XVI.1

Vital Statistics

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Natural increase in population	Death Rate for infants per thousand live births
1970	16.00	8.8	7.2	72
1971	20.00	7.5	12.5	55
1972	18.07	6.6	12.1	50

Source :

Director of Health Services, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.

The decline in the infant mortality is particularly remarkable.

COMMON DISEASES

At present, diseases of respiratory system, dysentery, diarrhoea and smallpox are the commonly prevalent diseases in addition to fevers, which take the highest toll of human lives in the district. The number of deaths due to various diseases during the period of five years from 1968 to 1972 is shown below. It shows that the smallpox has been rapidly brought under control while the diseases of respiratory system have been gradually less frequent.

STATEMENT XVI.2

Common Diseases

Sl. No.	Cause of Death	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
1. Cholera	..	..	14	..	4	..
2. Fevers	..	3,326	5,682	5,279	4,316	3,731
3. Dysentery and Diarrhoea ..	..	31	127	102	65	44
4. Respiratory system. ..	..	290	188	214	242	167
5. All other causes ..	..	4,154	4,951	5,011	4,520	4,668
Total ..	..	7,801	10,962	10,606	9,147	8,610

Source :

Director of Health Services, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.



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Malaria—Malaria was a widely prevalent disease which took a heavy toll of human lives in the past especially during monsoon season. This was mainly due to the unhygienic conditions prevailing both in the rural and urban areas of the district as mentioned earlier. As the disease continued unchecked causing a heavy mortality the State authorities organised anti-malarial activities on a large scale.

The State authorities as well as the municipalities of Palanpur and Deesa took timely and adequate anti-malaria measures during the year 1945-46 when the disease appeared in a virulent form. During the First Five Year Plan a malaria control unit was started in the district. In the initial stages, D. D. T. was sprayed in all the houses of the district to control malaria. The National Malaria Eradication Programme was launched by Government of India from 1958-59. In this district also the control programme was switched over to eradication programme as a joint venture of the Central Government and the State Government. The supply of insecticide equipments and transport was made by Government of India free of cost.

As a part of the programme, indoor residual insecticidal spray is carried out twice a year in all the endemic areas. To prevent the disease, anti-epidemic measures are taken. In 1973, more than 17,000 cases of malaria were detected in the district.

The State Malaria Organisation works under the Directorate of Health and Medical Services. The Deputy Director of Public Health, Malaria and Filariasis (Health Section) is in the over-all charge of this work.

Smallpox—In order to prevent the epidemic of smallpox, the Palanpur State had introduced vaccination in the year 1849. After the formation of the Bombay State, the Government of Bombay undertook a campaign of mass vaccination and re-vaccination. From 1962, the National Smallpox Eradication Programme was introduced in all the parts of Gujarat including this district.

The eradication programme has been thereafter intensified systematically bringing into its fold vaccination of infants within 28 days of birth and liquidating all the backlog of primary vaccination



in the population. The achievement from 1969 to 1973 was as follows :

Year	Primary Vaccination	Revaccination	Attacks of Smallpox	Deaths
1969 ..	58,676	209,441	569	98
1970 ..	60,671	222,696	283	32
1971 ..	68,083	101,218	36	2
1972 ..	68,433	78,003	0	0
1973 ..	63,760	73,544	1	0

Source :

Director of Health Services, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.

Thus the eradication programme has brought the smallpox incidence to zero. It can be said that the programme of primary and revaccinations of the population of Banaskantha District has been carried out satisfactorily. The above statement corroborates this.

The strength of the staff in the district at present consists of 2 para-medical assistants, a district mobile squad consisting of 51 vaccinators for rural areas, 2 vaccinators for urban areas and 13 vaccination supervisors.

Tuberculosis—Tuberculosis is a communicable disease. The Government has instituted a district T. B. control programme which makes it possible to detect and treat T. B. patients and to carry out preventive measures in the form of B.C.G. vaccination. The B.C.G. vaccination, if widely carried out, is expected to reduce the incidence of tuberculosis to a considerable extent. The B. C. G. vaccination programme was introduced in the district in 1956.

The State Government has given top priority for the control of this fell disease. The following statement shows the



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number of B. C. G. vaccinations given in the district from 1968 to 1972 :

Year				No. of Vaccinations
1968	..	..	..	59,996
1969	..	..	..	47,495
1970	..	..	..	55,370
1971	..	..	..	41,986
1972	..	..	..	62,389

Source :

Director of Health Services, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.

MEDICAL FACILITIES BEFORE INDEPENDENCE

The States of Palanpur and Radhanpur had their well equipped hospitals. The State hospital of Palanpur was the first hospital established in 1838.¹ The States of Tharad, Vav, Deesa and Danta had also got their own dispensaries. The five Thanas had each got similar dispensaries. Besides there were dispensaries at Juna Deesa, Thara, Balodhan, Morvada, Varahi, Sultanpura and Dhanera. The Jain community had opened a dispensary for Jains at Palanpur.² The Unani dispensary was maintained by the Palanpur State. There was one hospital for women and children in Palanpur. Another hospital for women was started in Radhanpur in the year 1898.³ However, the rural areas in general had no adequate medical facilities. As such the people had to depend on unqualified practitioners and quacks.

MEDICAL FACILITIES AFTER INDEPENDENCE

At the time of the formation of the Gujarat State, medical facilities in the district were provided through 12 medical institutions, which included 2 hospitals, 4 dispensaries, 4 rural health centres and 2 maternity and child welfare centres. The number of beds in the district was 96 and the number of indoor and outdoor patients treated was 4,910 and 67,037 respectively.

1. *Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. I, 1908., p. 57.
2. *Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. IV, 1919, p. 14.
3. *Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. I, 1908, p. 86.



According to the 1971 Census, there is no town at present without one or the other type of medical facility. Hospital facilities are available in three towns; two others have maternity centres and seven towns have family planning centres. No town has separate tuberculosis clinic though the Palanpur Civil Hospital has a special T.B. centre attached to it. The following table gives particulars of the number of beds available in each town :

Sl. No.	Name of town	No. of beds in medical institutions	No. of beds per 1,000 population
1.	Bhabhar Nava	16	2.75
2.	Deesa	47	1.66
3.	Juna Deesa	4	0.66
4.	Kanodar	...	...
5.	Palanpur	180	4.27
6.	Radhanpur	25	1.36
7.	Tharad	17	2.03
8.	Varahi	10	1.88
Total		299	2.50

Source :

District Census Hand book 1971, Banaskantha, pp. 12-13.

It would be seen from the statement that Palanpur which is the headquarters of the district has the highest number of beds being 180 followed by Deesa which has 47 beds. Kanodar town has no such facility. The number of beds per 1,000 population is also the highest at Palanpur, (being 4.27) followed by Bhabhar Nava (2.75) and Tharad (2.03). In the rest of the towns it is less than 2 per 1,000 population.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

The following is the list of the Government and charitable hospitals in the district :

1. The Cottage Hospital, Ambaji.
2. The Government Hospital, Deesa.
3. Smt. Maniben Vrajlal Mehta Hospital, Dhanera.
4. The Civil Hospital (with T.B. Centre), Palanpur.
5. M. V. Zaveri Charitable Hospital, Palanpur.
6. Women and Children Hospital, Palanpur.
7. Eye Hospital, Palanpur.
8. S. J. Government Hospital, Radhanpur.
9. Sarvodaya Eye Hospital, Radhanpur.
10. Referral Hospital, Tharad.



In addition, there are 11 private hospitals, one Railway Hospital, 73 dispensaries, two Ayurvedic dispensaries, and 11 S.M.P. centres. Among public dispensaries, the one at Dhanera with a maternity home is perhaps the oldest. It was established in the year 1930 by private donations, but is now managed by the District Panchayat. The maternity ward had six beds. The dispensary treats on an average about 4,000 patients annually.

The Cottage Hospital, Ambaji—The Cottage Hospital with 25 beds was established at Ambaji in the year 1965. It has a separate X-ray department, a pathological laboratory and a maternity ward. The hospital has total medical staff of 10. All types of common diseases are treated at the hospital which treats annually about 400 patients in its indoor department and 10,000 patients in the outdoor department.

The Government Hospital, Deesa—This hospital was started by the Nawab of Palanpur during the State regime. The management of the hospital was taken over by the Bombay State in 1955. A maternity ward was added to the hospital in the year 1962. In 1968, the hospital was upgraded from class II to class I. In 1971, a separate pathological laboratory was started. The hospital has 20 beds for males and 12 beds for female patients. The hospital has a total medical staff of six including two technicians. It treats annually about 1,400 patients in its indoor department and 24,000 patients in the outdoor department.

Smt. Maniben Vrajlal Mehta Hospital, Dhanera—A small dispensary was opened at Dhanera in the year 1965 by a charitable trust. The dispensary was developed into a full-fledged hospital in the year 1972 at a cost of Rs. 8 lakhs. It has in its indoor department 40 beds of which 20 are for T. B. patients. The hospital has an operation theatre, a pathological laboratory, an X-ray, department and a dental unit. The hospital treats annually 3,000 patients in its indoor department and 18,000 patients in the outdoor department.

The Civil Hospital, Palanpur—The Civil Hospital at Palanpur was established during the princely state regime. At that time it had 26 beds which have now increased to 215. The hospital has a clinical laboratory, a T.B. ward, an orthopaedic ward, an ophthalmic ward, etc. The hospital has a total staff of 75 including 58 nurses.



The hospital incurs an annual average expenditure of about Rs. 8 lakhs for the treatment of patients which number about 80,000 to 1,00,000 as detailed below :

Year	Indoor patients	Outdoor patients
1969	5,058	91,629
1970	6,039	98,641
1971	6,571	95,094
1972	6,649	95,651
1973	6,430	73,507

Zaveri Mangalji Vamalshi Charitable Dispensary, Palanpur—This charitable dispensary was started in the year 1911 by a trust constituted by late Shri Mangalji Vamalshi Zaveri of Patan. The building of the dispensary was constructed at a cost of Rs. 25,000 by the trustees in the year 1935. It provides free medicines and injections to T. B. patients. It has an X-ray department and a pathological laboratory. The hospital has a total medical staff of 13 including three technicians. The dispensary treats about 30,000 patients on an average every year.

The Women and Children's Hospital, Palanpur—In 1922-23, a young woman died of obstructed delivery and this impelled local social workers to do something to prevent such deaths of women and children. They themselves offered handsome donations and collected funds for the hospital. As a result, the Women and Children's Hospital was established at Palanpur in the year 1922-23, at a cost of Rs. 2 lakhs. For the first two years, the hospital had no building of its own. In the initial stages, there were 15 beds, which have now increased to 35.

The hospital has a maternity home, a surgical ward, a children's ward, etc., and a total medical staff of 12.

About 800 patients are treated in its indoor department and 8,000 patients in the outdoor department every year.

Shri Taley Mohammedkhan Silver Jubilee and Shah Manchand Maganchand Eye Hospital, Palanpur—The Eye hospital was established in the year 1946, from the funds collected at the time of the silver jubilee of the ex-ruler of Palanpur State and from the dona-



tion given by one Shri Chimanlal Manchand Shah in memory of his father. In the beginning, this hospital was managed by the Palanpur State. After the merger, it was run by the Bombay State. The Government of Bombay handed it over to Shri Taley Mohammedkhan Silver Jubilee and Shah Manchand Maganchand Eye Trust, in February 1958. Since then it is run by this trust. The hospital has a total medical staff of four. In the initial stages there were 12 beds which have now increased to 60.

The following statement shows the number of indoor and outdoor patients treated at the hospital during the last five years:

Year	Indoor patients	Outdoor patients
1969	1,724	17,237
1970	1,715	20,071
1971	1,717	21,387
1972	1,586	23,645
1973	2,047	21,343

The S. J. Government Hospital, Radhanpur—The hospital was built during the princely state regime. After the merger of the State, the Government took over the administration of the hospital. The hospital was subsequently handed over to the Radhanpur Nagar Panchyat but was taken over by Government in 1969. The total number of beds at present is 18. The hospital treats annually 200 patients in its indoor department, and 10,000 patients in its outdoor department.

The Sarvodaya Eye Hospital, Radhanpur—The Banaskantha district is dry and hot. There are many cases of trachoma, corneal opacities, cataract, night blindness due to deficiency in vitamin "A" and malnutrition. Inspite of this the district had no eye hospital of repute till late. A well equipped base Hospital for treating eye-diseases was therefore essential. This need was satisfied in 1973, when a free eye hospital with 10 beds came into existence at Radhanpur with the efforts of Shri Ravishanker Maharaj and the Sarvodaya Arogya Nidhi Trust.

The hospital does not charge anything right from consultation to accommodation, treatment and operations. Every month an eye camp is organised by this institution.



Appreciating this small creative project, the "Swiss-Aid" has contributed Rs. 80,000 for instruments, motor van and equipment. It is proposed to expand this hospital into a 100 bed hospital on a plot of seven acres of land donated by the State Government.

The Referral Hospital, Tharad—The hospital at Tharad was started as a cottage hospital in 1972 at a cost of Rs. 8 lakhs. It was converted into a Referral hospital in 1973. In the initial stages there were 25 beds which have now increased to 40. It has an X-ray machine, a pathological laboratory, a surgical department, and a maternity ward. All types of diseases are treated at the hospital.

The hospital has a total medical staff of 18, including 11 nurses. On an average 800 patients are treated in its indoor department and 10,000 patients in the outdoor department every year.

AYURVED

The Ayurved system of medicines flourished in the past. However, its popularity and importance gradually declined with the advent of the British rule due to several reasons such as encouragement to allopathy by the British, the absence of scientific research in the Ayurved and want of *vaid*s well-versed in this science. The Unani system was popular in the Palanpur State regime. A Unani dispensary was maintained by the State and was in the charge of the State physician. A private Ayurvedic dispensary at Palanpur received subvention from the State till the forties.

After Independence, the national Government realised the importance of the Ayurved and devoted attention for it led the revival of Ayurved through research and development. As a result, several Ayurvedic dispensaries were opened in every part of the country. At present, there are two Government Ayurvedic dispensaries in the district, one at Piluda (Tharad taluka) and the other at Piparala (Santalpur taluka). Besides, there are three S. M.P. Ayurvedic centres, one each at Tadav (Vav taluka), Kuchavada (Deesa taluka) and Kunvarsi (Danta taluka).

NUMBER OF DOCTORS

According to the 1971 Census, there were 100 physicians¹ and Surgeons and five dental surgeons in the urban areas of the district. Figures for the rural areas are not available.

1. Provisional figures.



CHAPTER XVI—MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMME

The increasing population has been a problem of serious concern to the Government. With a view to arresting this abnormal growth the Family Planning Programme is being vigorously pursued all over the State. It now forms a very important part of the district health programme. The programme is implemented through the family planning centres and primary health centres. The centres distribute contraceptives among the needy married couples and carry out sterilization and I.U.C.D. (intra uterine contraceptive device) insertions in suitable cases.

Males and females undergoing sterilization operations are paid monetary compensation. Special camps for vasectomy operations are also organised to boost the programme of Family Planning. In order to encourage private medical practitioners to participate in the programme, the practitioners are also paid incentive money.

The Family Planning Programme is implemented through the rural family planning welfare centres in the rural areas, and the urban family planning welfare centres in the urban areas. The rural family planning welfare centres are attached to the primary health centres. One District Family Planning Bureau has been set-up at the district level.

There are three family planning centres in the urban areas, one each at Radhanpur, Juna Deesa and Palanpur and 12 in the rural areas, distributed as under :

Sl. No.	Rural Centres	Talukas
1.	Vav	Vav
2.	Chandisar	Palanpur
3.	Malan	Palanpur
4.	Vadgam	Vadgam
5.	Danta	Danta
6.	Juna--Deesa	Deesa
7.	Khimat	Dhanera
8.	Radhanpur	Radhanpur
9.	Shihori	Kankrej
10.	Varahi	Santalpur
11.	Tharad	Tharad
12.	Bhabhar	Deodar



STATEMENT XVI.3
Performance of Sterilization Operations and I. U. C. D.

Year	Sterilizations			I. U. C. D.
	Male	Female	Total	
1965-66	94	52	146	1,523
1966-67	130	47	177	1,396
1967-68	1,010	129	1,139	1,502
1968-69	1,733	170	1,903	797
1969-70	1,842	221	2,063	563
1970-71	2,421	234	2,655	456
1971-72	10,493	269	10,762	392
1972-73	2,005	257	2,262	319

Source : District Family Planning Medical Officer, Banaskantha.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

As public health sector was not fully organised prior to Independence, provision for the health centres did not then exist. As a result, the health of women was many a time impaired during their pregnancy and delivery. Trained nurses and midwives were not available and the work was performed by untrained *ayahs* and indigenous *dais* with the result that death rate of both pregnant women and infants was high. After Independence, the Government made necessary provision for training nurses and established number of maternity homes and child welfare centres. According to the 1971 Census, there were 14 maternity homes and four child welfare centres in the district.

HEALTH EDUCATION

The Government of Gujarat established a Bureau of Health Education in the year 1960-61 to organise health education programme in a systematic and intensive manner throughout the State. The routine health education is carried out by the departmental staff during tours in the district, with a view to educating villagers in matters of health. Whenever fairs and festivals are held, the departmental staff carries out health education activities by showing films on subjects of health and hygiene.



The family planning workers and departmental staff are trained to give health education. They are allotted specific areas for their field work. The Family Planning Bureau arranges film shows, and other programmes in the district to promote health education. Special charts on the problems of health and family planning are locally prepared and displayed in the primary health centres.

Primary Health Centres

Primary health centres and sub-centres carry out multipurpose functions such as environmental sanitation, control of communicable diseases, control of trachoma, leprosy, etc. They provide basic health services as well as maternity and child health services in an integrated manner and also perform preventive and curative functions.

There are 12 primary health centres and 18 sub centres in the district.

Organisational Set up of the Public Health Department

The Director of Health Services, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad, is the head of all medical and health institutions in the State and is responsible for the efficient working of such institutions. The Directorate is divided into two Sections : (i) Medical and (ii) Health. On Health side, there is a Deputy Director of Public Health (Inspection) at the headquarters to look after the activities of Public Health Department except family planning and malaria programmes. He is assisted by the functional Assistant Director of Public Health incharge of different health programmes. These programmes are implemented by the Public Health Department through the District Health Officers who are in charge of all public health activities in the district. There is also a Joint-Director of Public Health Services at the headquarters who is in charge of all activities connected with the family planning and maternity and child health services in the State. At the district level, the District Family Planning Medical Officer implements this programme. There is a full-time Joint Director (Statistics) at the headquarters who is in charge of statistics relating to Health Section. There is also a full time Deputy Director of Public Health (Malaria and Filariasis) who is in charge of National Malaria Eradication Programme and National Filariasis Control Programme. He functions through the Regional Malaria Officers and Unit Officers, National Malaria Eradication Programme at regional and district levels.



The National Filaria Control Programme is implemented through the unit officers incharge of the programme at district level.

All primary health centres and dispensaries etc., are under the control of the Chief Medical Officer of Health under the Banaskantha District Panchayat. The state malaria organisation works under the Directorate of Health and Medical Services. The Deputy Director of Public Health, Malaria and Filaria (Health Section) is in the overall charge of this work. Surveillance operations are carried out to detect malaria cases. Blood smears of suspected cases are carried out and radical treatment is given to cases showing malaria parasites in blood.

There is no separate sanitation department but one unit of the health branch of the District Panchayat looks after this work. Five Divisional Sanitary Inspectors have been posted at district level, who look after general sanitation work and take preventive measures against spreading of epidemics or diseases. One sanitary inspector has been posted at each primary health centre. In a few primary health centres, one post of Epidemiologist-cum-Sanitary Supervisor has been sanctioned for supervision over general sanitation and epidemic work.

There is also one sanitary squad at district level which looks after the general sanitation work in the rural area. Sanitational health education is imparted to the village people by holding Gram Safai Camps with the help of the Gram-Panchayats and the Taluka Panchayats.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY

Among a number of public health activities taken up after Independence, provision for drinking water has received the top-most priority, as water constitutes the most essential human need. The Banaskantha District normally experience scarcity of drinking water due to low rainfall. The water is generally not available in open wells, throughout the year. However, the same is available from deep tube-wells with depths varying from 500 to 1000 feet. The subsoil water is sweet in shallow wells but is available in small quantities. The ground water turns brackish at greater depths. In such areas even tube-wells have been tried but have proved unhelpful in supplying sweet water. Excepting where there are some artesian bores yielding sweet water, people experience great hardship in



obtaining the minimum requirements of drinking water. The most affected areas for drinking water are the Vav and Tharad Talukas. After detailed investigations seven regional water supply schemes in Vav taluka covering 83 villages were prepared and sanctioned by Government. The schemes which are sanctioned are as under :

1. Katav Water Supply Scheme, costing Rs. 11.61 lakhs.
2. Benap Water Supply Scheme, costing Rs. 11.68 lakhs.
3. Uchosan Water Supply Scheme, costing Rs. 3.41 lakhs.
4. Bhadvel Water Supply Scheme, costing Rs. 6.07 lakhs.
5. Bhatsana Water Supply Scheme, costing Rs. 15.83 lakhs.
6. Vav Water Supply Scheme, costing Rs. 14.94 lakhs.
7. Kumbhardi--Takhatpura Water Supply Scheme, costing Rs. 35.40 lakhs.

Under the Drought-Prone Area Programme, the following schemes are sanctioned :

8. Antrol Bhoral Water Supply Scheme, costing Rs. 23.55 lakhs.
9. Juna Deesa Water Supply scheme, costing Rs. 1.61 lakhs.
10. Radhanpur Water Supply Scheme, costing Rs. 7.29 lakhs.

The following statement shows the number of places in rural and urban areas having water supply schemes :

STATEMENT XVI . 4
Places with Water Supply

Sl. No.	Taluka	Urban areas		Rural areas	
1.	Deodar	..	1	..	56
2.	Tharad	..	1	..	...
3.	Vav	..	...	..	74
4.	Radhanpur	..	1	..	...
5.	Kankrej	..	...	..	22
6.	Santalpur	..	1	..	...
7.	Dhanera	...	...	..	3
8.	Vadgam	..	...	..	13
9.	Deesa	..	2	..	15
10.	Danta	..	...	..	5
11.	Palanpur	...	2	..	24
	Total		8		212

Source : District Statistical Officer, Banaskantha.
B-469—45



As the statement shows, the talukas of Tharad, Radhanpur and Santalpur have no water works in rural areas which experience great difficulties of drinking water especially during the summer season.

URBAN WATER SUPPLY

Among urban areas, eight centres are covered under water supply schemes. Of these, two each are in Palanpur and Deesa talukas and one each in Radhanpur, Santalpur, Tharad and Deodar. The schemes of Palanpur and Radhanpur deserve special mention.

The Palanpur Water Supply Scheme

The town of Palanpur does not have a regular water work at present. The water is supplied to the residents of the town through about 200 stand posts erected in different localities. The water is obtained from four tube-wells and one well. About six lakh gallons of water is supplied every day. The water supply scheme of Rs. 52 lakhs with a storage plant is technically and administratively approved by the Government and is likely to be completed in 1976-77.

The Deesa Water Supply Scheme

Deesa has no full-fledged water supply scheme. There are seven wells from which 1,40,000 gallons of water is supplied through 140 stand posts erected in different localities. The number of private connections is 495. The drinking water is protected but not filtered for want of adequate plant for the same. The Government has recently sanctioned a water supply scheme of Rs. 22 lakhs, which is likely to be taken up soon.

The Radhanpur Water Works

Radhanpur got its water works in the year 1966-67 at a cost of Rs. One lakh. The water works have capacity to supply two lakh gallons of protected water per day. The number of domestic connections at present is 160. The municipality plans to expand the water supply scheme at a cost of Rs. 8 lakhs.



CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

INTRODUCTORY

Social welfare services form a new phase of public activities which have assumed greater importance after Independence. The present chapter deals with such services like labour welfare, prohibition, welfare of the backward classes and public and charitable trusts and endowments.

Before Independence, the princely states did not pay importance to social services, interested as they were primarily in collecting revenue and maintaining law and order in their respective States. The plight of the have nots and the backward strata of society was, therefore unenviable. As a welfare state the national Government has undertaken various measures for the amelioration of condition of the backward strata of society which were hitherto neglected. A number of facilities and concessions have been provided to these classes so as to bring them on par with other classes of society, thus removing the inequalities in their status as citizens of India. Similarly, for the welfare of the working classes, a number of labour welfare measures have been undertaken. These have gone far enough in removing the exploiting conditions in which they worked in the past. As a measure of social reform, especially to help improve the living conditions of the poorer strata of society, prohibition of liquor and other intoxicating drugs has been introduced and strictly enforced. These welfare measures are dealt with in the following paragraphs.

LABOUR WELFARE

The status and conditions of industrial workers have now changed for the better as compared to the past. At the same time, the industrialisation and urbanisation have also created problems of sanitation, over-crowding and unsafe conditions of working life which involve risk to life and limb of the workers. In these circumstances, to safeguard the welfare of the working class, various labour laws are introduced.



LABOUR LEGISLATION

The labour laws at present in force in the district include the following :

- (1) The Indian Boilers Act, 1923,
- (2) The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923,
- (3) The Trade Unions Act, 1926,
- (4) The Payment of Wages Act, 1936,
- (5) The Employment of Children Act, 1938,
- (6) The Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946,
- (7) The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946,
- (8) The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947,
- (9) The Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1948,
- (10) The Employees State Insurance Act, 1948,
- (11) The Factories Act, 1948,
- (12) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948,
- (13) The Employees Provident Funds Act, 1952,
- (14) The Mines Act, 1952,
- (15) The Working Journalists (Conditions of Services and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1955
- (16) The Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Act, 1958,
- (17) The Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959,



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(18) The Gujarat Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1961,

(19) The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 (This Act was made applicable from 1--5--1964 and prior to this Act Maternity Benefit Act, 1929 was in force),

(20) The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961,

(21) The Apprentices Act, 1961,

(22) The Gujarat Smoke Nuisance Act, 1963,

(23) The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965,

(24) The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966,

(25) The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 (brought into force from 1972), and

(26) The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

Of these, the more important labour laws which have introduced far-reaching changes in the welfare of working conditions of the labourers are the following:

(1) *The Maternity Benefit Act*—It regulates the employment of women before and after child birth and provides maternity benefits on a prescribed basis. The Act is made applicable to all the industries covered under the Factories Act of 1948 in the district.

(2) *The Shops and Establishments Act*—It limits the hours of work in shops and commercial establishments and provides for a paid weekly holiday. The Act was first applied to the Palanpur municipal area in the year 1950. It was applied to the Deesa Nagar Panchayat area in 1954 and to the Radhanpur Nagar Panchayat area in 1965.

(3) *The Factories Act*—It provides for the minimum requirements regarding health, safety and general welfare of workers and fixes their working hours. It is applied to 32 factories in the district.



(4) *The Workmen's Compensation Act* —It provides for compensation to be paid to a worker who meets with an accident while on duty and

(5) *The Provident Funds Act* —It provides for the contributory provident fund for the economic stability of the workers. The Provident Funds Scheme covered 16 establishments in this district employing about 750 persons, of whom 520 contributed to the Provident Fund in the year 1973--74.

PROHIBITION

Before Independence, the Banaskantha district comprised princely states of Palanpur, Radhanpur, Tharad, Vav and Thana circles of Kankrej, Deodar, Varahi and Santalpur. There was no prohibition in these areas. There was an Excise Department in the Palanpur Agency in charge of the Political Agent. The following Excise laws were in force during the Agency administration.

(1) Opium Act, II of 1878.

(2) Opium Regulations, 1909.

The Opium Opiated and other Intoxicating Drugs Law of 1931 was in force in Radhanpur State. Cultivation of opium and import, export, transport and possession by a person other than medical practitioners, etc., and farmers were prohibited under the Opium Regulations, 1909. The states earned handsome amounts from excise and were, therefore, unwilling to introduce prohibition in their respective areas. For example, the excise and opium revenue in the Palanpur State during the year 1945--46 amounted to Rs. 7.72 lakhs.¹

The drinking habit was confined to a few castes, mostly backward, for some of whom it was a customary practice to serve liquor to guests during social ceremonies like marriage, etc.

The policy of prohibition was advocated by Mahatma Gandhi in his 10-point constructive programme. Despite opposition from the vested interests, this programme was vigorously followed during the non-cooperation movement of 1930. Gandhiji spear-headed

1. *Summary Report of the Administration of the Palanpur State, 1945-46*, p. 55.



the movement for prohibition and organised picketing of wine and toddy shops. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel also advised the rulers to introduce prohibition in their States. A lead for the cause of prohibition was thus taken by Gujarat.

After Independence, a phased programme of prohibition was undertaken by the National Government. Under this programme, the sale of intoxicants was controlled progressively by a cut of 25 per cent. This policy of gradual prohibition culminated in total prohibition in April, 1950. Thus, total prohibition was introduced in this and other parts of Gujarat from April, 1950 during the Bombay State regime.

The Prohibition Inquiry Report for Bombay State submitted by Shri M. D. Bhansali, I. C. S. in 1952 made a special mention of this district in the following words —

“Banaskantha district touches the Rajasthan border for more than 150 miles. Hence an appreciable amount of liquor consumption takes place along the border and liquor is also smuggled from there. There is not much illicit distillation. Illicit liquor traffic is prevalent in Koli and Thakarda communities”.

Even at present it is a customary practice among Rajputs, Thakors, and Aanjana Patels to serve *Kasumba* (opium) on important social occasions. It is smuggled into the district from Rajasthan.

Objectives and Working of the Prohibition Act

The prohibition law is brought into force primarily with a view to eliminating the vice of drinking and rehabilitating the domestic life of the addicts, thereby raising the standard of living of the people. The following Central and State Acts are at present in force in Gujarat State.

(1) *State Acts*

- (i) The Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949,
- (ii) The Bombay Opium Smoking Act, 1936,
- (iii) The Bombay Drugs (Control) Act, 1959.



(2) *Central Acts*

(i) The Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955.

(ii) The Spirituous Preparations (Inter-State Trade and Commerce) Control Act, 1955 and

(iii) The Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930.

These Acts prohibit the import, export, transport, purchase, possession, use, consumption and manufacture of intoxicants in the State except under a licence or a permit.

The State Government has constituted a District Prohibition Committee to advise the administration in the matter of grant of certain licences under the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949. Under this Act, the District Prohibition Committee also coordinates the activities of some departments under district Panchayat, Prohibition and Police. The work of enforcement of prohibition is entrusted to the police in addition to their normal duties.

Benefits of Prohibition

As Shri Bhansali had reported in 1952, backward and labour classes are more benefitted by prohibition. Adivasis, Kolis, Garasias, Bhils, Harijans, and Thakardas are reported to have raised their standard of living. They now spend more on necessities.¹

The position has improved even further since then and prohibition has been made more effective. The illicit distillation is under check and offences of drunkenness, etc., are on the whole declining. Most of the addicts have redeemed their old debts. The number of crimes which were committed under the influence of drinks have also appreciably declined.

Prohibition has brought about a healthy change in the domestic, social and economic life of the peasants, labourers and the Backward Classes in particular. The Dhebar Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has taken a special note in its report about the working of prohibition in the tribal areas of

1. BHANSALI M. D., *Prohibition Inquiry Report in Bombay State*, 1952, p. 16.



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Gujarat and has observed that tribals have taken to peaceful life, their purchasing power has increased and their standard of living has improved as a result of prohibition. The Social Welfare Department of the erstwhile Bombay State carried out a survey of the socio-economic conditions of the Backward Classes during the year 1958. It examined more than 100 villages of several districts including the Banaskantha district. The survey indicated that there was an overall improvement in social, economic and health conditions of the Backward Classes as a result of prohibition. They were able to save money which was utilised for their better life. The amount of income which was formerly spent on liquor was used for productive purposes. Prohibition has reduced family tensions and brought about better relations at home, greater and proper care of children and almost complete absence of quarrelsome and ugly atmosphere both in homes and in the neighbourhood.

Prohibition Offences

A total of 1,329 prohibition offences were detected during the year 1972--73 of which 1,133 related to illicit import, export or possession of liquor. The rest concerned possession of hemp drugs and opium. Prohibition offences recorded in the district between 1965-66 and 1972--73 are given in the following statement.

STATEMENT XVII. 1

Prohibition Offences

Year	Illicit import, export transport, possession and distillation of liquor	Miscellaneous	Opium	Hemp-Drugs	Total
1965-66	453	420	119	10	1002
1966-67	734	395	109	2	1240
1967-68	1050	9	114	10	1180
1968-69	1233	15	135	9	1392
1969-70	1161	1	104	3	1269
1970-71	1434	1	102	8	1545
1971-72	1045	2	134	10	1191
1972-73	1133	..	187	9	1329

Source :

Director of Prohibition and Excise, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.



Set-up of the Department and Its Functions

The Director of Prohibition and Excise is the head of the Department. He has his office at Ahmadabad. The Superintendent of Prohibition and Excise, Banaskantha district is in the overall charge of the work relating to prohibition in the district. He has under him one Sub-Inspector of Prohibition and Excise. He has been vested with certain powers under the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949, the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930, the Bombay Opium Smoking Act, 1936, the Bombay Drugs (Control) Act, 1959, the Spiritous Preparations (Inter State Trade and Commerce) Control Act, 1955 and the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955. The main functions of the Superintendent and his subordinate officers are to implement the various restrictions imposed under the above Acts and the rules made thereunder, to grant licences and permits for excisable articles, to exercise check in the licences granted and to recover excise or countervailing duties and fees on liquor, opium, hemp drugs, medicinal and toilet preparations containing alcohol, opium, narcotic drugs and other narcotics. The Superintendent has to organise prohibition propaganda work in Municipal areas of the district. The work relating to prohibition propaganda in the Panchayat areas is entrusted to the Panchayats.

BACKWARD CLASSES

The Backward Classes may broadly be classified into two classes-the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Scheduled Castes

The predominant Scheduled Castes in the district are the Vanakar, Chamar, Bhangi, Senma, Garoda, Turi and Tirbandha. They are mainly concentrated in Palanpur, Vadgam, Vav, Tharad, Dhanera and Deesa talukas of the district. Those settled in Tharad are cultivators with large holdings. The total population of the Scheduled Castes in the district according to the Census of 1971 is 1,24,693 which forms 9.85 per cent of the district population and 6.83 per cent of the total Scheduled Castes population of Gujarat. Members of the Scheduled Castes in the district are mainly engaged in cultivation (15,895), agricultural labour (14,325) and household industries (2,666), while construction (602), transport, storage and communications (486), live-stock and forestry (463) and processing



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servicing and manufacturing industries other than household industries (437) also provide employment to a few. About 11.61 per cent of the total Scheduled Castes population of the district was recorded as literate in 1971 as against 9.14 per cent in 1961. The extent of literacy among males and females is of the order of 19.85 per cent and 3.06 per cent respectively.

Scheduled Tribes

The Scheduled Tribes are mainly concentrated in Danta, Palanpur, Dhanera and Deesa talukas. There are seven Scheduled Tribes in the district with a population of 77,758 which is 6.15 per cent of the total district population and 2.08 per cent of the total State Scheduled Tribes population. The Bhil tribe including Bhil Garasias (76,986) and the other Bhil tribes such as the Dholis, Dungri Bhils, Garasia Bhils, Gametis, etc., form the principal Scheduled Tribes in the district. Only 4.00 per cent of the total Scheduled Tribes population of the district was recorded as literate in 1971 as against 2.91 per cent in 1961. The extent of literacy among male and female members of the Scheduled Tribes is 7.12 per cent and 0.66 per cent respectively. Members of the Scheduled Tribes in district are mainly engaged in cultivation (17,946) and agricultural labour (5,661) but live-stock and forestry (511), processing, servicing and manufacturing industries other than household industries (288) and trade and commerce (296) also provide employment to a few.

Advancement of the Backward Classes

Before Independence, no special efforts were made by the Government or the public at large for the amelioration of the condition and prospects of the Backward Classes.

A great lead was given by the Indian National Congress. With the entry of Mahatma Gandhi, the Congress became an earnest champion of the Harijans. It was mainly at his insistence that the 1917 Congress adopted a definite resolution urging upon the people of India, "the necessity, justice and righteousness of removing all disabilities imposed by custom upon the Scheduled Castes." The recognition of the justice of the cause of the Harijans by the Congress and the hearty support of several social workers of Gujarat to this noble cause gave a new impetus to the work that was being done for their amelioration. Shri Parikshitlal Majmudar,



Shri Chamanlal Mehta, Shri G. G. Mehta, Shri Galbabbhai Patel, etc., made sincere efforts to ameliorate the conditions of the Scheduled Castes in this district and to open schools for them. Such legislation as the Bombay Harijan (Removal of Disabilities) Act, 1946 which penalised a person who observed untouchability and the Bombay Harijan Temple Entry Act, 1947 which gave to Harijans a right of worship in a temple, made a distinctive contribution to the cause of removal of untouchability. Several Social Organisations like the Harijan Sevak Sangh and the Bhil Seva Mandal which worked in the district through its branches also helped in the uplift of the Backward Classes.

The conditions of the Harijans and the Adivasis have improved considerably both economically and socially after Independence as a result of intensive work done by social workers and of various socio-economic legislative measures undertaken by Government to ameliorate their conditions. In addition to these enactments, which are in force in Gujarat, activities designed to bring home to the general public the evils of untouchability are also under-taken by award of prizes to villages doing out-standing work for the removal of untouchability, grant-in-aid to voluntary agencies working for the eradication of untouchability, etc. The general attitude of the people towards the Harijans has also changed for the better, more so in towns than in villages. They are treated on par with other members of the society in public functions or places of entertainment. Their children are now admitted without discrimination to schools and colleges. They are now eligible for the highest position in the State and public bodies. In short they are being gradually accepted in society on the basis of social equality and the former serious handicaps from which they suffered are slowly but surely being removed.

Their housing conditions have appreciably improved as a result of various housing schemes sponsored by the Government and local bodies. As will be seen later, their economic condition has also improved due to various concessions given by the State to overcome the disabilities from which they suffered, in the past.

Welfare Schemes for the Backward Classes

The existing schemes for the welfare of the Backward Classes can be broadly classified into schemes for: (i) educational uplift, (ii) economic uplift, and (iii) health, housing and other schemes.



(i) *Educational Uplift*—Under the schemes for educational uplift, examination fees are granted to the Backward Class students without taking the income into consideration. To encourage bright students, scholarships are awarded every year. The Backward Class students are given merit scholarship to enable them to purchase books, stationery, etc. Free boarding and lodging arrangements have also been provided through recognised hostels. The Government of India scholarships are awarded by the Director of Social Welfare, Gujarat State to students prosecuting studies in post S. S. C. courses subject to certain conditions. Provision is also made for liberal grants for construction of hostels for the Backward Class students. In 1970--71 the number of such hostels was 13 in the district.

During the period 1971-72 to 1973-74 about 10,828 Backward Class students were awarded freeships, examination fees, scholarships, tuition fees, etc.

(ii) *Economic Uplift*—Most of the Backward Classes in this district are either agriculturists or landless labourers or artisans. Their condition can be improved only through schemes which have a direct bearing on their economic activity.

Keeping this in view the programme for their economic uplift includes the following schemes : (a) Agricultural schemes (b) financial assistance to cottage industries and professions, and (c) financial assistance to co-operative societies.

Under the agricultural schemes, financial assistance is provided to cultivators for digging wells, purchasing oil-pumps, engines, agricultural implements, bullocks, bullock-carts, etc., as well as for minor irrigation purposes. Under the scheme for grant of subsidy for purchase of oil engines subsidy is granted to members of the Backward Classes whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 3,600 to the extent of Rs. 1,500 or 50 per cent of the actual cost of the engine, accessories, etc., whichever is less. Under the scheme for grant of financial assistance for improvement of land, the amount of subsidy is given at the rate of Rs. 100 per acre subject to the maximum limit of Rs. 500. In distribution of Government's



waste land, priority is given to Harijans. Under another scheme, loans and subsidies to the extent of Rs 1,000 per individual are granted to the Backward Class members (whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 3,600) for starting cottage industries or developing professions such as tailoring, carpentry, etc. The ratio of loan and subsidy is 50 : 50. Similar assistance is given for cottage industries and co-operative societies started by the Backward Classes.

(iii) *Health, Housing and Other Schemes*—Under the head 'Health, Housing and Other Schemes' there are 5 schemes meant for the Scheduled Castes, viz., the construction of drinking water wells, medical aid, eradication of the practice of the carrying night-soil as headload, provision of house sites, and housing subsidy for sweepers and scavengers. The special schemes for the scheduled Tribes include construction of roads, bridges and culverts and establishment of subsidiary health units. Free legal assistance is provided to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in civil and criminal cases.

During the First Plan period, a scheme was introduced under which financial assistance was granted to co-operative housing societies of the Backward Classes in the form of subsidy and interest-free loan. The scheme was discontinued in April 1961 but was reintroduced on a slightly different pattern from 1972-73. At present, the Backward Classes are given financial assistance in the form of subsidy to the extent of Rs. 900/ or 75 per cent of the expenditure incurred for construction of the houses. Gharthal land is also given to Harijans or to their co-operative societies free of charge or at a nominal price. A scheme for grant of financial assistance to the Backward Classes for medical treatment in genuine cases is in existence. Under the scheme patients suffering from T. B., Cancer, etc., are given assistance at the rate of Rs. 50 p. m. for 12 months. In ordinary cases, a lump sum of Rs. 25 and in cases of accident, etc., a sum of Rs. 100 is given. During the Third Plan period, 218 patients were given medical aid.

Although the general policy of the Government is not to have separate wells for Harijans, some relaxation in the matter has been made since 1971-72 for construction of new wells for Harijans in hard cases. The full cost for the construction of the wells to the extent of Rs. 3,000 is borne by the Government.



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A total expenditure of Rs. 11.06 lakhs was incurred during the Third Five Year Plan period for these welfare schemes for the Backward Classes. The details about the expenditure incurred separately for the Backward Classes from 1966-67 to 1973-74 are given below:

STATEMENT XVII.2

Expenditure incurred Under the State Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the Welfare of the Backward Classes in Banaskantha District
(RS. IN LAKHS)

1	Plan		C. S. Schemes		Total 6
	Years 1966-67 to 1968-69	Years 1969-70 to 1973-74	Years 1966-67 to 1968-69	Years 1969-70 to 1973-74	
	2	3	4	5	
EDUCATION					
Scheduled Castes ..	1.08	3.13	..	..	4.21
Scheduled Tribes ..	0.28	2.25	..	..	2.53
Nomadic Tribes ..	..	..	0.12	0.20	0.32
Denotified Tribes ..	..	..	0.10	0.18	0.28
Total ..	1.36	5.38	0.22	0.38	7.34
ECONOMIC UPLIFT					
Scheduled Castes ..	0.13	1.17	..	..	1.30
Scheduled Tribes ..	0.19	1.67	..	..	1.86
Nomadic Tribes ..	..	0.02	0.01	0.14	0.17
Denotified Tribes ..	..	0.15	0.01	0.23	0.39
Total ..	0.32	3.01	0.02	0.37	3.72
HEALTH, HOUSING AND OTHER SCHEMES					
Scheduled Castes ..	..	0.92	0.24	0.25	1.41
Scheduled Tribes ..	0.01	0.86	..	..	0.87
Nomadic Tribes ..	..	0.02	..	0.25	0.27
Denotified Tribes ..	..	0.02	0.09	0.43	0.54
Total ..	0.01	1.82	0.33	0.93	3.09
Grand Total					
Scheduled Castes ..	1.21	5.22	0.24	0.25	6.92
Scheduled Tribes ..	0.48	4.78	..	..	5.26
Nomadic Tribes ..	..	0.04	0.13	0.59	0.76
Denotified Tribes ..	..	0.17	0.20	0.84	1.21
Total ..	1.69	10.21	0.57	1.68	14.15

Source :

Director of Social Welfare, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.



Reservation of Seats for the Backward Classes

The Backward Classes are offered certain concessions in Government service. Before the formation of the Gujarat State, when the district formed part of the erstwhile Bombay State, the Government of Bombay had fixed the following minimum percentages for reservation of seats in Government service for the Backward Classes in accordance with the provisions made under Article 335 of the Constitution of India.

STATEMENT XVII. 3

Reservation of Seats

Category of Service	Percentage of Vacancies to be reserved in recruitment
1. All Class I and II services and posts thereunder	12 ½
2. Class III services :	
(i) Scheduled Castes	6
(ii) Scheduled Tribes	7
(iii) Other Backward Classes	9
3. Class IV services :	
(i) Scheduled Castes	7
(ii) Scheduled Tribes	9
(iii) Other Backward Classes	11

The Government of Gujarat continued these reservation percentages till 1969, when it introduced certain changes most of which are in force at present. In the case of the State level posts, the Government has fixed¹ the reservation percentages for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes for the whole State as under :

Sl. No.	Category	Classification of Services and percentage of reservation		
		Class I and II	Class III	Class IV
1.	Scheduled Castes	7	7	7
2.	Scheduled Tribes	14	14	14

1. Government of Gujarat, General Administration Department, Resolution No. BAC-1064-3373-CH, dated 20th September, 1969.



Thus the reservation percentages are reduced in the case of Class I and Class II posts for the Scheduled Castes and increased for the Scheduled Tribes reflecting their respective population in this district. In the case of the Scheduled Castes, there is no material change in reservation percentage for Class III and Class IV services. But the reservation percentages in the case of the Scheduled Tribes have been doubled in the case of the Class III services and raised from 9 to 14 in the case of Class IV for them. Thus, the percentages have been changed, having regard to the population of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

In the case of district level posts, the percentages of reserved seats are 10 for the Scheduled Castes and 14 for the Scheduled Tribes for Class III and IV services¹.

Other Concessions

For the general elections to the Legislative Assembly one constituency, namely Vav, is reserved for the Scheduled Castes candidate. In the elections to the Gram Panchayats, Taluka Panchayats and the District Panchayat also seats for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are reserved according to their population.

For admission to the educational institutions a certain number of seats are reserved for the Backward Class students. They are also given concession in the requirements of the minimum percentages of marks required for admission to the various educational faculties.²

Administrative Set-up

Before the Panchayati Raj was introduced in Gujarat in 1963, activities for the welfare of the Backward Classes were conducted by the Social Welfare Department. The departmental head was designated as the Director of Social Welfare, who had under him in his office one Deputy Director, one Personal Assistant, one Officer incharge of Backward Classes and Tribal Welfare and two Social Welfare Officers, in addition to the District Social Welfare Officers at the district headquarters

1. Government of Gujarat, General Administration Department, Resolutions No. BAC-1064-3373-CH, dated 20th September, 1969 and dated 1st October, 1974.
 2. *Harijan Kalyan Karyakram Ane Adivasi Kalyan Karyakram*, 1972, Director of Social Welfare, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.
- B-469—46



This position was radically changed on account of the introduction of the Panchayati Raj with effect from 1st April, 1963, when almost all the welfare schemes of non-technical nature were transferred to the District Panchayats with the necessary staff. At present, every District Panchayat in the State is allotted the post of a Social Welfare Officer to implement various welfare schemes in the Panchayat areas.

As the work of implementation of welfare scheme for the Backward Classes in municipal areas was not transferred to the District Panchayats, a separate machinery was created for the purpose and six posts of the Welfare Officers (State) as distinguished from those under the Panchayats were set-up in the municipal areas of the State. Their headquarters were fixed at Ahmadabad, Mahesana, Surat, Vadodara, Amreli and Rajkot. The Banaskantha district falls under the jurisdiction of the Social Welfare Officer, Mahesana.

Before 1965, welfare activities for the Backward Classes were conducted by the Directorate of Social Welfare which had under it two wings: (1) the Backward Class Welfare Wing, and (2) the Correctional Administration Wing. In 1965, the Backward Class Welfare Wing was separated and made an independent directorate known as the Directorate of Backward Class Welfare. In 1968, the separate Directorate of Backward Class Welfare was abolished and the work was transferred to the newly formed directorate named as the Directorate of Social Welfare. In 1969, this directorate was once again bifurcated and a new unit for the Backward Classes was formed named as Directorate of Harijan and Adivasi Welfare. In 1970, this directorate was re-designated as the Directorate of Social Welfare. It looks after the welfare activities of the Backward Classes. The Officer at the district level working under this directorate is designated as Social Welfare Officer.

Gujarat Tribal Development Corporation

In the year 1972, the Gujarat Government constituted the Gujarat Tribal Development Corporation with a view to undertaking the task of social and economic uplift of the members of the Scheduled Tribes in the State. The Corporation has been empowered to take such steps as it may think proper, to plan and promote any programme of agricultural development, marketing and processing,



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supply and storage of agricultural produce, small scale industries, building construction, transport and such other activities as may be approved in this behalf, by the State Government. It has been also empowered to give grants and subsidies to the members of the Scheduled Tribes and their organisations for furtherance of achieving its object of promoting social and economic uplift of the Scheduled Tribes.

The following schemes have been implemented by the Corporation till now :

- (1) Vitalisation of multi-purpose co-operative societies in tribal areas,
- (2) Poultry development scheme,
- (3) Assistance for co-operative training,
- (4) Assistance for industrial training,
- (5) Ambar Charkha scheme,
- (6) Development of Nira and Palm-gur industry.

PUBLIC TRUSTS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

The State authorities have been found to have interested themselves, since early days, in the affairs of religious and charitable institutions and exercised supervision and control over them besides providing means for their maintenance and upkeep.

Before Independence, there was no centralised supervision over all the public trusts in the State. The central enactments which were applicable to all the public trusts in the State were the Charitable and Religious Trusts Act, 1920, and the provisions of sections 92 and 93 of the Civil Procedure Code. In 1935-36, during the former Bombay State, the following Central and State laws were in force for the control and supervision over the management of the public trusts : (1) the Bombay Public Trusts Registration Act, 1935, applicable to the public trusts existing for the benefit of the Hindu Community ; (2) The Muslim Wakf (Bombay Amendment) Act, 1935 applicable to the Muslim Wakfs, and (3) the Parsi Public Trusts Registration Act, 1936 applicable to the public trusts existing for the benefit of the Parsi Community.



Thus before Independence, the machinery for exercising supervision and control over the public trusts varied according to the communities for whose benefit these trusts were created with no centralised supervision over all the public trusts.

The Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950 was enacted with a view to covering all the trusts irrespective of caste, creed or community and to introduce uniformity in their supervision and control. It has certain new features. Unlike the previous enactment on the subject, it applies to all the communities, in keeping with the principles laid down in the Constitution of India about the uniformity of civil laws and provides for a uniform machinery for exercising supervision and control by the State over the management of the public trusts. The definition of a 'public trust' has been widened so as to include the societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The Act provides for the establishment of special machinery for dealing with all matters concerning the administration and management of public trusts, and working under the administrative control of the Legal Department. It provides for compulsory registration of all public trusts, and for the appointment of a Charity Commissioner for regions and sub-regions into which the State is divided for administrative convenience. The Banaskantha district, which forms part of the Ahmadabad region, is under the jurisdiction of Deputy Charity Commissioner, Ahmadabad.

In March 1975, the total number of trusts registered in the Banaskantha district was 951. Out of them 508 were Hindu trusts, 234 Muslim trusts, 2 Parsi trusts, 163 cosmopolitan trusts and the remaining 44 were the trusts registered under the Societies Registration Act. Some of the important trusts among them are listed below.

(1) Shri Arasuri Ambamata Devasthan Trust, Ambaji, Danta taluka;

(2) Shri Balaram Akhadeshwar Mahadev Sanatan Trust Committee, Balaram, Palanpur taluka;

(3) Shri Chhotubhai Mehta Charitable Trust, Palanpur;

(4) Deesa Jarthosti Anajuman, Deesa;

(5) Shri Dharnidharaji Bhagawan Mandir, Dhima, Vav taluka;



- (6) Shri Gram Vikas Mandal, Bhabhar, Palanpur taluka;
- (7) Jain Shwetambar Murtipujak Sangh, Tharad;
- (8) Jain Shwetambar Murtipujak Tapgachha Upashraya, Palanpur;
- (9) Janata Kelavani Mandal, Tharad;
- (10) Juna Deesa Mahajan Panjrapol, Juna Deesa;
- (11) Kankrej Taluka Kelavani Mandal, Thara, Kankrej taluka;
- (12) Lok Niketan, Ratanpur, Palanpur taluka;
- (13) Mahajan Sadayrat, Nava Deesa;
- (14) Mahila Mandal, Palanpur;
- (15) Shri M.D. and Sons Sthapit Shri Ambika Vijaya Pustakalaya, Ambaji;
- (16) Moti Bazar Masjid, Palanpur;
- (17) Shri Narsinhji Mandir, Palanpur;
- (18) Nava Deesa Mahajan Panjrapol, Nava Deesa;
- (19) Nutan Bharati, Madana (Gadh) Palanpur taluka;
- (20) Shri Palanpur Hindu Samaj, Palanpur;
- (21) Palanpur Jain Shishushala, Balamandir and Education Trust, Palanpur;
- (22) Palanpur Mahajan Panjrapol, Palanpur;
- (23) Rajpur Math, Rajpur, Deesa taluka;
- (24) Ramji Mandir, Nava Deesa;
- (25) Rampura Math, Rampura, Deesa taluka; and
- (26) Sarvodaya Ashram, Sanali, Danta taluka.



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CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

PUBLIC LIFE

Public participation in the affairs of the State was neither encouraged by the rulers nor forcefully demanded by the people of this district in the past.

A limited attempt in this direction was made in the Palanpur State, in response to public demand, mainly voiced through “*Chalo Maliye*” a local organisation established in 1945 by the efforts of local leaders and social workers. They were successful in establishing the Palanpur Rajya Lok Sangh in 1946. Earlier, the Palanpur Raj Sabha Act which provided for the constitution of a Legislative Assembly was passed in 1939. But due to war, its operation was stayed. According to the changed circumstances it was repealed and in its place “The Government of Palanpur State Act, 1946” was enacted in 1946. Under this act, the Executive Council consisting of not more than 5 ministers was formed. The legislature consisting of 50 members was created: of them 36 were elected members and 14 were nominated¹. The election was to be made on the basis of adult franchise and indirect election method. Thus the people of the Palanpur State for the first time sent their elected representatives in 1946.

In Radhanpur, a Praja Mandal was established in the year 1939 by the efforts of prominent local workers. They organised their activities from Bombay and moulded public opinion.

An organisation of farmers founded at the district level and known as “Khedut Mandal” generated a feeling of unity among the agriculturists. The “Khedut Mandal” played an important role in ventilating the views and grievances of the people belonging to the rural areas.

After Independence, the public opinion became better organised and more vocal. The fundamental rights guaranteed by the Consti-

1. *Summary Report of the Administration of the Palanpur State, 1945-46* pp, 20-21.



tution encouraged people to express their views freely and fearlessly on matters political, economic and social. People began to realise, gradually the importance and value of their views and opinions in the democratic set-up of the State. The popular elections in India whereunder people got the right to appoint their own representatives in the State and Union Legislatures induced even the common man to take greater interest in the affairs and working of the Governmental organisation. The introduction of the Panchayati Raj in 1963 enabled even the village people to manage their own affairs and to actually and actively participate in the implementation of the various developmental programmes under the Five Year Plans.

REPRESENTATION OF THE DISTRICT IN THE UNION AND STATE LEGISLATURE

The Banaskantha district has one representative in the Union Legislature (Lok Sabha) and 8 representatives in the State Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) at present. While the number of constituency for the Lok Sabha has remained the same, namely one, since the first General Elections, that of the Vidhan Sabha has changed several times. The district had 6 representatives in the Bombay Legislative Assembly at the time of the 1952 General Elections. There were two double-member constituencies, viz., (i) Palanpur-Abu-Vadgam-Danta and (ii) Deodar-Kankrej-Vav-Tharad wherein one seat was reserved for the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Castes candidates respectively. Besides, there were two single member constituencies. In the General Elections of 1957, there were two double-member constituencies, viz., Deesa and Palanpur. In the former one seat was reserved for the Scheduled Castes while in the later one seat was reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. There were two single member constituencies also. Thus the total number of representatives of the district in the Vidhan Sabha remained six.

After the formation of the Gujarat State, the double-member constituencies were discontinued. In the General Elections of 1962 the number of constituencies in the district was increased to 7. Of these, one, Vadgam constituency, was reserved for the Scheduled Castes. Due to territorial changes Radhanpur constituency was included in this district. In the General Elections of 1967 and 1972 the district had 8 constituencies. The Vav constituency was reserved for the Scheduled Castes.



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The details of the present extent of the Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies in the district are as follows:

Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies

Sl. No.	Name of the Constituency	Extent in terms of Parliamentary/Assembly constituencies
A—PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY		
1.	Banaskantha ...	Radhanpur, Vav, Deodar, Kankrej, Deesa, Dhanera and Palanpur.
B—ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES		
1.	Radhanpur ..	Santalpur taluka, Radhanpur taluka and Suigam circle in Vav taluka.
2.	Vav ..	Vav circle and Mavsari circle in Vav taluka. Piluda circle and 32 villages in Tharad circle in Tharad taluka.
3.	Deodar ...	Deodar taluka, Bhildi circle (excluding 21 villages in Bhildi circle in Deesa taluka included in Jherda constituency and 11 villages in Bhildi circle included in Kankrej constituency) in Deesa taluka.
4.	Kankrej ..	Kankrej taluka and the 11 villages in Bhildi circle in Deesa taluka.
5.	Vadgam*(S.C.) ..	Tharad circle (excluding the 32 villages included in Vav constituency) in Tharad taluka, Jherda circle and 21 villages in Bhildi circle and Nava Deesa circle (excluding the 11 villages included in Deesa constituency) in Deesa taluka.
6.	Dhanera ...	Dhanera taluka and Amirgadh circle (excluding the villages included in Palanpur constituency) in Palanpur taluka.
7.	Deesa ...	11 villages in Nava Deesa circle in Deesa taluka, Gadh circle and the 17 villages in Palanpur circle in Palanpur taluka.
8.	Palanpur ...	Palanpur circle (excluding the villages included in Deesa constituency), 23 villages in Gola circle and villages Delwada, Rajpur (Pakhanwa), Malna, Varwadia, Lunva, Pakhanwa, Moria, Parpada and Badarpura (Parpada) in Amirgadh circle in Palanpur taluka and Chhapi circle in Vadgam taluka.
9.	Danta*	Danta taluka, Gola circle (excluding 23 villages included in Palanpur constituency) in Palanpur taluka and Vadgam circle in Vadgam taluka.

Source : The Gujarat Government Gazette, Part IV-C, dated 28th Feb., 1974, pp. 59, 60 and 94 (proposals).

* The Vadgam and Danta Assembly constituencies of the district are included in the Sabarkantha Parliamentary constituency.

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POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS

The Indian National Congress has dominated the political field in this district ever since the first General Elections of 1952. In the General Elections of 1952 it defeated the Socialist Party in all the five seats contested by it. In the General Elections of 1962, the newly formed Swatantra party challenged the supremacy of the Congress and put up its candidates against the Congress in all the 7 Assembly seats alongwith the Parliamentary seat. But the Swatantra emerged as a complete loser. In the General Election that followed in 1967, the Swatantra party continued to be the mains rival of the Congress. It strengthened its position this time by capturing the Parliamentary seat and 3 of the 8 Assembly seats in the district. The position changed to a great extent after the split in the Congress party in 1969. The Congress (R) and the Congress (O) became the main rival parties in the Elections of 1971 and 1972.

There is no party of local origin in the district. All the political parties have their affiliations with the all India bodies. A study of the election results of 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1971 and 1972 reveals the relative hold of the various political parties in the district.

The General Elections of 1952

In the 1952 General Elections, there were three political parties, viz., the Congress, the Socialist and the Ram-Rajya Parishad besides 7 independent candidates. The Congress captured the Parliamentary seat and 5 of the 6 Assembly seats while one Assembly seat went to an independent candidate. The Socialist party which had contested all the seats and the Ram-Rajya Parishad which had contested one Assembly seat lost the battle. Thus the Congress established its hold in the district. The Congress polled 63.72 per cent of the votes, the Socialist 14.64 per cent, the Ram-Rajya Parishad 2.59 per cent and the independent candidates polled 19.05 per cent of the total valid votes polled in the Legislative Assembly. The percentage of valid voting was 37.72 in the Parliamentary constituency and 31.42 in the Assembly constituencies.

The following table shows the party affiliations of the contesting candidates and the number of valid votes polled by them



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in the General Elections of 1952 :

STATEMENT XVIII.1
Election Results, 1952

Sl. No.	Name of the constituency	Party affiliations of the contesting candidates	Total valid votes polled	Number of valid votes polled by each candidate	Percentage to total votes polled
1	2	3	4	5	6
THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE (LOK SABHA)					
1.	Banaskantha	1. Congress	1,40,636	91,753	65.24
		2. Socialist		36,042	25.63
		3. Independent		12,841	9.13
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY					
1.	Palanpur-Abu- Vadgam-Danta (Double - member) (S.T.)	1. Congress	72,279	28,355	39.23
		2. -do-		26,215	36.27
		3. Socialist		7,373	10.20
		4. -do-		7,120	9.85
		5. Independent		3,216	4.45
2.	Palanpur-Deesa	1. Congress	27,462	18,272	66.54
		2. Ramrajya Parishad		4,562	16.61
		3. Socialist		2,756	10.03
		4. Independent		1,872	6.82
3.	Deesa-Dhanera	1. Socialist	18,940	1,231	6.50
		2. Independent		9,565	50.50
		3. -do-		8,144	43.00
4.	Deodar-Kankrej- Vav-Tharad (Double-member) (S.C.)	1. Congress	57,294	20,549	35.87
		2. -do-		18,742	32.71
		3. Socialist		4,442	7.75
		4. -do-		2,844	4.96
		5. Independent		5,687	9.93
		6. -do-		5,030	8.78

Source:

Report on the First General Elections, 1951-52, Election Commission, Government of India, Vol. II, pp. 28, 29, 262, 263.

The General Elections of 1957

In the General Elections of 1957, there were no political parties in the field except the Congress. The contest was, therefore, between the Congress and the independent candidates. The

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Congress contested one Parliamentary seat and 6 Assembly seats and captured all the seats in the district. Thus it continued its hold over the political field in the district. The Congress polled 59.34 per cent and the independent candidates 40.66 per cent of the total votes polled in the Assembly constituencies. The percentage of valid voting was 35.38 in the Parliamentary constituency and 33.92 in the Assembly constituencies.

The following table shows the party affiliations of the contesting candidates and the number of valid votes polled by them in the General Elections of 1957:

STATEMENT XVIII.2
Election Results, 1957

Sl. No. 1	Name of the constituency 2	Party affiliations of the contesting candidates 3	Total valid votes polled 4	Number of valid votes polled by each candidate 5	Percentage to total votes polled 6
THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE (LOK SABHA)					
1.	Banaskantha	1. Congress	1,22,033	66,368	54.38
		2. Independent		55,665	45.62
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY					
1.	Tharad	1. Congress	20,076	10,177	50.69
		2. Independent		9,899	49.31
2.	Kankrej	1. Congress	23,276	13,608	58.46
		2. Independent		9,668	41.54
3.	Decsa	1. Congress	66,361	22,022	33.18
	(Double member) (S.C.)	2. -do-		20,651	31.12
		3. Independent		13,431	20.24
		4. -do-		10,257	15.46
4.	Palanpur	1. Congress	79,514	23,706	29.81
	(Double member (S.T.))	2. -do-		22,132	27.84
		3. Independent		17,025	21.41
		4. -do-		9,008	11.33
		5. -do-		4,424	5.56
		6. -do-		3,219	4.05

Source :
Report on the General Elections, 1957, Election Commission, Government of India, Vol. II, pp. 128, 129, 690, 691.



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The General Elections of 1962

In the General Elections of 1962, there were as many as five contesting political parties, viz., the Congress, the Swatantra, the Jana Sangh, the Hindu Maha Sabha and the Republican besides 4 independent candidates. The keen contest was, however, between the Congress and the newly formed Swatantra party. The Congress and the Swatantra parties put up their candidates in all the 7 Assembly seats along with the Parliamentary seat. The Hindu Maha Sabha contested one Parliamentary seat and 2 Assembly seats, while the Jana Sangh contested only the Parliamentary seat. The Republican party contested one Assembly seat. The Congress routed all the parties in the election. It captured the Parliamentary seat and 6 Assembly seats; one Assembly seat went to an independent candidate. Thus the Congress continued its hold over the political life of the people. The Congress got 55.26 per cent, the Swatantra 27.87 per cent, the Republican 1.31 per cent, the Hindu Maha Sabha 1.00 per cent and the independent candidates 14.56 per cent of the total valid votes polled in the Assembly constituencies. The percentage of valid voting was 45.92 in the Parliamentary constituency and 45.56 in the Assembly constituencies.

The following table shows the party affiliations of the contesting candidates and the number of valid votes polled by them:

STATEMENT XVIII.3

Election Results, 1962

Sl. No.	Name of the constituency	Party affiliations of the contesting candidates	Total valid votes polled	Number of valid votes polled by each candidate	Percentage to total votes polled
1	2	3	4	5	6
THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE (LOK SABHA)					
1.	Banaskantha	1. Congress	2,02,556	1,15,931	57.23
		2. Swatantra		60,975	30.10
		3. Jana Sangh		13,364	6.60
		4. Hindu Maha Sabha		12,286	6.07
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY					
1.	Radhanpur	1. Congress	29,139	20,044	68.79
		2. Swatantra		4,720	16.20
		3. Hindu Maha Sabha		1,234	4.23
		4. Independent		3,141	10.78



STATEMENT XVIII. 3--*contd.*

Sl. No. 1	Name of the constituency 2	Party affiliations of the contesting candidates 3	Total valid votes polled 4	Number of valid votes polled by each candidate 5	Percentage to total votes polled 6
2.	Tharad	.. 1. Swatantra	37,040	11,013	29.73
		2. Congress		6,028	16.27
		3. Independent		19,999	54.00
3.	Deodar	.. 1. Congress	35,198	27,429	77.93
		2. Swatantra		7,769	22.07
4.	Dhanera	.. 1. Congress	21,078	10,665	50.60
		2. Swatantra		10,413	49.40
5.	Deesa	.. 1. Congress	21,844	13,312	60.94
		2. Swatantra		8,532	39.06
6.	Palanpur	.. 1. Congress	28,901	15,899	55.01
		2. Swatantra		6,111	21.14
		3. Hindu Maha Sabha		769	2.66
		4. Independent		3,347	11.58
		5. -do-		2,775	9.61
7.	Vadgam (S.C.)	.. 1. Congress	27,759	17,669	63.65
		2. Swatantra		7,450	26.84
		3. Republican		2,640	9.51

Source :
Report on the General Elections, 1962, Election Commission, Government of India, Vol. II, pp. 27, 185.

The General Elections of 1967

In the General Elections of 1967, there were three political parties, viz., the Congress, the Swatantra and the Samyukta Socialist Party besides 8 independents. The main contest was, however, between the Congress and the Swatantra party. Both the parties had put up their candidates in all the 8 Assembly seats along with the Parliamentary seat in the district. The SSP contested only one Assembly seat. The Congress won 5 Assembly seats and the remaining 3 along with the Parliamentary seat went to the Swatantra party. The Swatantra secured 46.50 per cent, the Congress 45.48 per cent, the SSP 0.25 per cent and the independent candidates 7.77 per cent of the total valid votes polled in the Assembly constitu-



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ORGANISATIONS

encies. The percentage of valid voting was 53.75 in the Parliamentary constituency and 52.31 in the Assembly constituencies.

The following table shows the party affiliations of the contesting candidates and the number of valid votes polled by them:

STATEMENT XVIII.4
Election Results, 1967

Sl. No.	Name of the constituency	Party affiliations of the contesting candidates	Total valid votes polled	Number of valid votes polled by each candidate	Percentage to total votes polled
1	2	3	4	5	6
THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE (LOK SABHA)					
1.	Banaskantha	1. Swatantra	2,29,914	1,10,028	47.86
		2. Congress		1,05,621	45.94
		3. Independent		14,265	6.20
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY					
1.	Radhanpur	1. Swatantra	36,255	19,044	52.53
		2. Congress		17,211	47.47
2.	Vav (S.C.)	1. Swatantra	30,362	20,812	68.55
		2. Congress		9,550	31.45
3.	Deodar	1. Congress	31,754	15,671	49.35
		2. Swatantra		15,208	47.89
		3. Independent		875	2.76
4.	Kankrej	1. Congress	34,059	13,336	39.16
		2. Swatantra		5,684	16.69
		3. Independent		12,581	36.94
		4. -do-		2,458	7.21
5.	Deesa	1. Congress	34,939	19,506	55.83
		2. Swatantra		15,433	44.17
6.	Dhanera	1. Swatantra	25,959	15,146	58.35
		2. Congress		10,813	41.65
7.	Palanpur	1. Congress	33,204	14,946	45.01
		2. Swatantra		13,664	41.15
		3. SSP		639	1.92
		4. Independent		2,089	6.29
		5. -do-		1,067	3.21
		6. -do-		484	1.46
		7. -do-		315	0.95
8.	Danta	1. Congress	29,048	15,202	52.33
		2. Swatantra		13,846	47.67

Source :

Report on the General Elections, 1967, Election Commission, Government of India, Vol. II, pp. 41,242, 243,

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*The Mid-Term Parliamentary Elections of 1971*

The mid-term Parliamentary Elections held in 1971 brought a major political change due to the historic split in the Congress party in 1969 resulting in the Congress (R) and the Congress (O). There was almost a straight fight between the two parties though there were two independent candidates also in the fray. The Congress (R) won the battle securing 52.90 per cent. The Congress (O) secured 41.98 per cent and the independent candidates 5.12 per cent of the total valid votes polled. The percentage of valid voting was 46.62. The following table shows the details of the result.

STATEMENT XVIII.5**Election Results, 1971**

Sl. No.	Name of the constituency	Party affiliations of the contesting candidates	Total valid votes polled	Number of valid votes polled by each candidate	Percentage to total votes polled
1	2	3	4	5	6
The HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE (Lok Sabha)					
1.	Banaskantha	1. Congress (R)	2,19,967	1,16,352	52.90
		2. Congress (O)		92,352	41.98
		3. Independent		6,467	2.94
		4. -do-		4,796	2.18

The General Elections of 1972

In the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly held in 1972, there were three political parties, viz., the Congress, the Congress (O) and the Jana Sangh besides 15 independent candidates. The Congress and the Congress (O) contested 8 and 7 Assembly seats respectively while the Jana Sangh contested 4 seats. The Congress captured 7 seats while one seat went to the Jana Sangh. The Congress (O) lost the battle completely. The Congress polled 50.69 per cent, the Congress (O) 19.73 per cent, the Jana Sangh 10.95 per cent and the independent candidates 18.63 per cent of the total valid votes polled in the Assembly constituencies. The percentage of valid voting was 50.19.

The following table shows the party affiliations of the contesting candidates and the number of valid votes polled by them in the



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General Elections to the Legislative Assembly in 1972 :

STATEMENT XVIII.6

Election Results, 1972

Sl. No.	Name of the constituency	Party affiliations of the contesting candidates	Total valid votes polled	Number of valid votes polled by each candidate	Percentage to total votes polled
1	2	3	4	5	6
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY					
1. Radhanpur	..1. Congress	35,937	18,795	52.30	
	2. Congress (O)		8,824	24.55	
	3. Independent		8,318	23.15	
2. Vav (S.C.)	..1. Congress	26,178	13,396	51.17	
	2. Congress (O)		8,170	31.21	
	3. Jana Sangh		2,780	10.62	
	4. Independent		1,832	7.00	
3. Deodar	..1. Congress	37,122	21,228	57.18	
	2. Congress (O)		5,391	14.52	
	3. Jana Sangh		2,360	6.36	
	4. Independent		8,143	21.94	
4. Kankrej	..1. Congress	42,957	27,455	63.91	
	2. Independent		14,679	34.17	
	3. -do-		823	1.92	
5. Deesa	..1. Congress	37,025	15,375	41.53	
	2. Congress (O)		10,436	28.19	
	3. Jana Sangh		4,173	11.27	
	4. Independent		7,041	19.01	
6. Dhanera	..1. Congress	33,482	18,523	55.32	
	2. Congress (O)		8,872	26.50	
	3. Independent		3,063	9.15	
	4. -do-		1,272	3.80	
	5. -do-		1,267	3.78	
	6. -do-		485	1.45	
7. Palanpur	..1. Jana Sangh	46,520	23,110	49.68	
	2. Congress		17,771	38.20	
	3. Congress (O)		3,311	7.12	
	4. Independent		1,204	2.59	
	5. -do-		1,124	2.41	
8. Danta	..1. Congress	37,001	17,612	47.60	
	2. Congress (O)		13,451	36.36	
	3. Independent		4,621	12.49	
	4. -do-		877	2.37	
	5. -do-		440	1.18	

Source : The Times of India, dated March 12, 1972.
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STATEMENT XVIII. 6

Votes polled in the General Elections (1952 to 1972)

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Election Year 1	Total No. of electors 2	Total votes polled 3	Percentage of Col. 3 to 2 4	Total valid votes polled 5	Percentage of Col. 5 to 2 6	Name of the parties 7	Votes polled by parties 8	Percentage to total valid votes polled 9
THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE (LOK SABHA)								
1952	3,72,878	...	...	1,40,636	37.72	1. Congress 2. Socialist 3. Independent	91,753 36,042 12,841	65.24 25.63 9.13
1957	3,44,894	...	...	1,22,033	35.38	1. Congress 2. Independent	66,368 55,665	54.38 45.62
1962	4,41,054	2,09,496	47.50	2,02,556	45.92	1. Congress 2. Swatantra 3. Jana Sangh 4. Hindu Maha Sabha	1,15,931 60,975 13,364 12,286	57.23 30.10 6.60 6.07
1967	4,27,762	2,44,894	57.25	2,29,914	53.75	1. Swatantra 2. Congress 3. Independent	1,10,028 1,05,621 14,265	47.86 45.94 6.20
1971	4,71,796	2,33,765	49.55	2,19,967	46.62	1. Congress (R) 2. Congress (O) 3. Independent	1,16,352 92,352 11,263	52.90 41.98 5.12

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (VIDHAN SABHA)									
1952	3,34,309 (5,60,128)*	...	...	1,75,975	31.42	1. Congress	1,12,133	63.72	CHAPTER XVIII—PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE 739 ORGANISATIONS
						2. Socialist	25,766	14.64	
						3. Ramrajya Parishad	4,562	2.59	
						4. Independents	33,514	19.05	
1957	3,44,894 (5,57,796)*	...	...	1,89,227	33.92	1. Congress	1,12,296	59.34	
						2. Independents	76,931	40.66	
1962	4,41,054	2,09,496	47.50	2,00,959	45.56	1. Congress	1,11,046	55.26	
						2. Swatantra	56,008	27.87	
						3. Republican	2,640	1.31	
						4. Hindu Maha Sabha	2,003	1.00	
						5. Independents	29,262	14.56	
1967	4,88,623	2,76,588	56.61	2,55,580	52.31	1. Swatantra	1,18,837	46.50	CHAPTER XVIII—PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE 739 ORGANISATIONS
						2. Congress	1,16,235	45.48	
						3. SSP	639	0.25	
						4. Independents	19,869	7.77	
1972	5,90,185	3,16,839	53.68	2,96,222	50.19	1. Congress	1,50,155	50.69	
						2. Congress(O)	58,455	19.73	
						3. Jana Sangh	32,423	10.95	
						4. Independents	55,189	18.63	

Source :

1. *Reports on the General Elections*, Election Commission, Government of India.
2. In the General Elections of 1952 and 1957 the district had two double—member Assembly constituencies. The first figure shows the number of electors while the second one shows the number of votes cast by them. The percentages in column 6 are worked out in relation to total votes cast.



The above table reveals the increasing political awareness of the people of the district. The voting percentage has steadily increased since the first General Elections. In the 1952 General Elections the voting percentage was 31.42 which rose to 50.19 in the General Elections of 1972.

It will also be observed from the details given in the statement that the Congress has been able to secure more than 50 per cent of votes except in the General Elections of 1967. In the 1967 Elections the Swatantra party had emerged as a powerful opponent and had polled more votes than the Congress. Its strength, however, fizzled out in the subsequent elections. The Socialist party which had contested as a strong rival party of the Congress in 1952 contesting all the seats in the district could not put up any candidate in the subsequent elections. As regards the Jana Sangh, it has come into lime-light in this district only during the last General Elections. The independent candidates have never secured more than 20 per cent of the votes except in the 1957 General Elections, when they got more than 40 per cent of the votes. This was due to the fact that they were supported by the Maha Gujarat Janata Parishad which had gained sudden popularity due to its campaign for the separate state for Gujarat.



NEWSPAPERS

No daily newspaper is published from the district. The Gujarati dailies published from Ahmadabad are widely read here. As regards the English newspapers, the *Times of India* and the *Indian Express* published from Ahmadabad are popular among the English knowing people. There are six Gujarati weeklies of which three are published from Palanpur, two from Deesa and one from Ratanpur. Those published from Palanpur are the *Swarajya* started in 1953, the *Banasvari* (1967) and the *Banas Sandesh* (1972). The *Rakheval* (1970) and *Jay Banas* (1969) are published from Deesa and the *Lok Sangh* (1964) is published from Ratanpur. Five Gujarati fortnightlies are published from the district viz., the *Deesa Times* (1963) and the *Nutan Banas* (1971) from Deesa, the *Azad* (1972) from Palanpur, the *Sarhad Sanhita* (1973) from Bhabhar and the *Kankrej Times* (1974) from Shihori.



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ORGANISATIONS

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Origin, Growth and Direction

The phenomenon of voluntary social service is closely associated with the democratic form of Government which promises equal status and opportunities to all. The sections of the society like women, children, the illiterate, the disabled and the backward strata of society. During the regime of the princely States there were only a few voluntary social service institutions in this district. They were mainly confined to a limited sphere of activities. Even after Independence, the progress has not been very impressive, mainly because of the backwardness of the area.

Among the important existing institutions, the oldest is the Palanpur Mahila Mandal established in 1946 by Shrimati Kesarben M. Zaveri. The first important institution established after Independence is the Sarvodaya Ashram of Sanali (Danta Taluka) opened in 1950 by the efforts of Shri Akbarbhai Chavda and others. The other important institutions include the Lok Niketan of Ratanpur established by Shri Akbarbhai Chavada and Shri Harisinh Chavada in 1961 and the Nutan Bharati, Madana (Gadh) started by Shri Harisinh Chavada and Shri Ramjibhai Vohra in 1961.

An account of the important institutions in the district is given in the following paragraphs:

The Lok Niketan, Ratanpur (Palanpur Taluka)

The Lok Niketan was established in 1961 to promote general welfare of the people of the district by promoting educational, cultural and social activities. It runs Vinaya Mandir-an Uttar Buniyadi Shala, a Kumar Chhatralaya for Harijan students, a Kanya Chhatralaya for Adivasi girl students and one Ashramshala and a Balvadi for Adivasi children. It also runs a *gaushala*.

The Sarvodaya Arogya Nidhi, Radhanpur

The Sarvodaya Arogya Nidhi was established in 1972 with the main purpose of providing medical facilities to the local people. It runs an Eye Hospital since 1973 and organises eye-camps every month. The patients are treated free of charge.



Details about the hospital are given in chapter XVI-Medical and Public Health Services.

The Sarvodaya Ashram, Sanali (Danta Taluka)

The Sarvodaya Ashram was established in 1950 with a view to ameliorating the educational, cultural, economic and social condition of the people of the backward area of the district. The institution started Balvadis, night schools and primary schools at several villages in the nearby area. It has inspired farmers to use improved seeds, chemical fertilizers and modern techniques of farming. The Ashram has organised one co-operative society and one consumer's store. It also maintains a *gaushala*. It may be said that the establishment of the Sarvodaya Ashram has greatly changed the atmosphere in the surrounding area. The tract which was formerly an abode of anti-social elements, is now thriving with constructive activities.

Women's Organisations

Women's organisations are functioning with the main purpose of promoting educational, social, cultural and economic welfare of the women in general. Among such institutions in the district mention must be made of the Mahila Mandal of Palanpur, the Mahila Mandal of Radhanpur and the Deesa Taluka Mahila Mandal.

The Mahila Mandal of Palanpur is the oldest existing women's organisation in the district established before Independence in the year 1946. It conducts sewing classes, a Bal Mandir, a women's library, a children's library, and organises elocution competitions and relief measures at the time of natural calamities like famine, flood, etc.

A similar organisation is working at Radhanpur since 1970. It conducts a Bal Mandir and sewing and embroidery classes for women. It also organises games and Ras-Garba competitions.

The third institution of importance in this group is the Deesa Taluka Mahila Mandal which was established in the year 1959 at Nava Deesa. It runs a Bal Mandir and sewing classes, besides organising study-tours and games competitions.



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Youths Organisations

Several institutions are working in the district for organising youth activities in a constructive way. Among such institutions, Shri Bhagavati Bal Yuvak Mandal at Danta--Bhavangadh, Shri Madhutra Yuvak Mandal at Madhutra and the Deesa Sports Club deserve mention. The first mentioned was established in 1962. It organises games competitions and participates in the State Youth Festival every year. It has been registered under the Public Trust Act and is recognised by the Gujarat State Youth Board. Shri Madhutra Yuvak Mandal was established at village Madhutra in Santalpur taluka in the year 1964. Its approach is mainly educational. It runs a primary school, an adult education class and Ambar Charkha classes for the younger generation. Twice a year, it organises cultural programmes for propagating prohibition. The Deesa Sports Club established in 1953 has inspired the younger generation to take to physical education. The club organises games competitions and participates in the State and District level competitions.

In addition to the institutions mentioned above, there are several other institutions, such as the Balaram Saghan Kshetra Samiti (Chitrasani), the Nutan Bharati, Madana (Gadh), etc., which deserve special mention. Besides there are institutions which function in this district not independently but as branches of national or international organisations. Among these, the Lions Club and the Rotary Club both functioning at Palanpur as well as at Deesa are doing useful work as far as the scope of their activities permit. The newly formed Inner Wheel Club of Palanpur, wholly managed by women has also gained popularity by its activities. These institutions have helped the people of the district by collecting funds during the time of natural calamities.

Besides there are a few organisations which are conducting educational activities only. They have been dealt with in Chapter XV—Education and Culture. There are several other organisations which are functioning at village level. These are mainly the Yuvak Mandals and the Mahila Mandals. There are about 50 such institutions which are working at village level and have, therefore, a limited scope of activities



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CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

Introductory

The Banaskantha district has several places of religious, historical and archaeological interest. The most important place of religious importance is Ambaji in Danta taluka which has acquired a very great religious importance because of the sacred and ancient temple dedicated to Goddess Ambaji. Koteswar is another pilgrim place in the taluka for the Hindus. Kumbharia Jain temples represent the best in the Jain architecture and remind us of the famous Delwara temples. Bhildi in Deesa taluka is also an important pilgrim place for the Jains. The other places of religious importance are village Dev in Radhanpur taluka, Varahi in Santalpur taluka, Bhorol in Tharad taluka and Mokeswar in Vadgam taluka. Balaram near village Chitrasani in Palanpur taluka is not only a popular pilgrim place but also a famous picnic spot of excellent natural scenery surrounded by picturesque hills and tall trees. Dantiwada in Dhanera taluka is famous as a picnic spot but more so as a place having the only major irrigation project of the district. Bandhva has come into limelight recently because of the meditation centre established here.

Palanpur, Radhanpur, Tharad and Deesa are the important urban centres which are also trading centres of great importance in the district. All the four places are ancient places of historical interest. Tharad is perhaps the most ancient, said to have been founded in 115 A. D. by Thirpal Parmar who migrated from Rajasthan. Palanpur was believed to be famous as Prahaladan Patan in the early 13th century. Radhanpur was famous in the past as a great centre of trade and the largest town in the district. Deesa was also an important centre as it lay on the highway between Rajasthan and Gujarat.

The places of interest in the district are listed below, talukawise :

1. *Danta Taluka*

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| 1. Ambaji | 5. Latol |
| 2. Danta | 6. Mahudi |
| 3. Koteswar | 7. Sanali |
| 4. Kumbharia | |



2. *Deesa Taluka*

1. Bhildi
2. Deesa
3. Juna Deesa

3. *Deodar Taluka*

1. Bhabhar
2. Deodar

4. *Dhanera Taluka*

1. Dantiwada
2. Dhanera

5. *Kankrej Taluka*

1. Dev-Darbar
2. Kasara
3. Shihori
4. Thara

6. *Palanpur Taluka*

1. Amirgadh
2. Chitrasani (Balaram)
3. Iqbalgadh
4. Jethi
5. Kanodar
6. Palanpur
7. Parpada
8. Ratanpur
9. Sarotra

7. *Radhanpur Taluka*

1. Bandhavad
2. Dev
3. Gotarka
4. Radhanpur

8. *Santalpur Taluka*

1. Santalpur
2. Varahi

9. *Tharad Taluka*

1. Bhorol
2. Tharad

10. *Vadgam Taluka*

1. Chhapi
2. Jalotra
3. Magarwada
4. Majadar
5. Meta
6. Mokeswar
7. Rupal
8. Vadgam

11. *Vav Taluka*

1. Dhima
2. Suigam
3. Vav



Ambaji— Danta Taluka (P* 3,559); V. P., 24' 20° N. 72° 51' E.

Ambaji is one of the most important places of pilgrimage in Gujarat on account of the famous temple of goddess Ambaji, also known as Amba Bhavani or Arasuri. Ambaji is 23

* Abbreviations : P.=Population (1971), V. P.=Village Panchayat, G. P.=Group Panchayat, N.P.=Nagar Panchayat, Mu.=Municipality, N=North Latitude, E=East Longitude.



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km. from the Abu Road railway station., on the Ahmadabad-Delhi metre gauge railway line. It is 20 km. from Danta, the taluka headquarters and 60 km. from Palanpur, the district headquarters. It is also connected with Danta, Palanpur and Abu Road by the State Transport bus services. About 6 km. north-east of the temple, there is the temple of Koteswar Mahadev situated near the source of the river Saraswati in the Arasur hills. Nothing is known about the origin of Ambaji. As a legend has it, the tonsorial ceremony of Shri Krishna was done here which indicates that the place was in existence even during the early days.¹ Some of the inscriptions on the pillars bear the date of 15th century which leads to believe that the present temple must have been built earlier in the 13th or 14th century.² However, there is no reliable information. In front of the main temple, there is a Shiv temple while the temples of Varahi and Ganesh are respectively on the right and the left. Nearby are preserved some ancient ruined idols of Nav-Graha, Vishnu with 14 hands, etc. The open space or *chawk*, in front of the temple is known as *Chachar Chawk* where *yagnas* are performed and *garbas* are played on special occasions especially during *Navratri*. Four large fairs are held here annually on the full moon days, in the months of Kartik, Chaitra, Bhadrapad and Aso. Monthly fairs are held on every Purnima.

The shrine made of coarse marble, has no idol but a niche with *Visho Yantra* which is said to have been engraved therein. The temple attracts a large number of devotees every day but during the *Navratri* festival the maximum assemblage goes up to 150,000 persons. The reservoir nearby, called Manasarovara, bears the date of V. S. 1545.³ Close to the reservoir, there is a temple of Ajai Mata with an inscription dated V. S. 1415.⁴ Near the Ambaji temple there is a cave known as 'Saraswati Gufa' and further on a Shiv temple called Valmikeswar Mahadev. Other places of interest in the vicinity are the well known Jain temples of Kumbhariya and *Gabbar*, a steep hill on the peak of which there are foot-prints of the goddess. Nearby, are temples of the Someshwar Mahadev and the Chamunda

1. RAJGOR SHIVPRASAD B., *Gujarat-Ek Darshan* (1969), pp. 398-399.
2. DAVE K. B., *Ambika, Koteswar Ane Kumbhariya* (1963), p. 100.
3. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency, Kutch, Palanpur and Mahikant*, Vol. V, (1880), pp. 432-33. Shri K. B. Dave quotes *Ambikendushckhar* to prove that it was built between V. S. 1640 and 1650 by a Nagar named Tapishanker of Ahmedabad (*Ambika, Koteswar Ane Kumbhariya*, p. 103).
4. DAVE K. B., *Ambika, Koteswar Ane Kumbhariya* (1963), p. 103.



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Mata. There are about 100 *dharmshalas* for pilgrims in Ambaji. The village has a factory manufacturing marble tiles, a Bal Mandir, a primary school, a high school, a Sanskrit Pathshala, a public library, Cinema House and a cottage hospital besides a post and telegraph office. Branches of State Bank of India and District Central Co-operative Bank function here.

Amirgadh—Palanpur Taluka (P. 2,751); V.P., 24° 24' N. 72° 39' E.

Amirgadh is about 32 km. from Palanpur situated between Palanpur and Abu Road railway station on the Ahmadabad--Delhi metre-gauge railway line. It is also connected with Palanpur by the State Transport bus services. There is a ginning and pressing society running on co-operative basis. At a distance of 8 km. is the famous temple of Chamunda Mata situated in the heart of the forest.

It is believed that the ancient town of Chandravati of the Parmars was situated nearby. It was spread over an area of 30 km.

Amirgadh has a primary school, a secondary school, a hospital, a dispensary, a family planning centre and a post office.

Bandhavad—Radhanpur Taluka (P. 1,837).

Bandhavad is 12 km. from Radhanpur which is also the nearest railway station. It is connected by the State Transport bus routes with important places in the district.

There is a temple of Hanumanji, which is visited by many.

Bandhavad has come into lime light because of the meditation centre, established by Shri Madhusudandas Maharaj. The centre has its branches at Rajkot, Ahmadabad, Bombay and other places. The centre is visited by many Indians and foreigners interested in meditation. Besides conducting meditation camps, the centre organises relief measures during lean years.

The village has a primary school, water works and a post office.

Bhabhar—Deodar Taluka (P. 5,827); V.P., 24° 04' N. 71° 36' E.

Bhabhar is an important place of interest, 8 km. west of Deodar. It has been upgraded as a town in the Census of 1971.

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Actually, there are two revenue villages, Juna Bhabhar and Nava Bhabhar. But as they are closely located, they are usually considered as one place. Bhabhar was originally held by Koli Thakors of Kankrej estates. It is a railway station on the Palanpur-Gandhidham railway line and is also connected by the State Transport buses with Radhanpur, Palanpur and other places. Being one of the important market places of food-grains in the Banaskantha district, it has an agricultural produce market committee and a market yard. A large cattle fair is organised by the market yard authorities on Chaitra Sud 11 to 15. There are three saw mills, two tin factories, and one ink manufacturing unit. Bhabhar has a post and telegraph office, a primary school, a secondary school, a library, three dispensaries, a health centre, a nursing home and a family planning centre. It has its own water works. There are branches of Dena Bank, State Bank of India and the District Central Co-operative Bank besides the Urban Co-operative Bank.

Bhildi—Deesa Taluka (P. 3,493); V.P., 24° 11'N. 70° 00' E.

Bhildi is situated at a distance of 22 km. from Deesa, the taluka headquarters and 48 km. from Palanpur, the district headquarters. It is a junction station on the Palanpur-Gandhidham and Bhildi-Raniwada railway lines. Bhildi is also connected by the State Transport buses with Palanpur and Radhanpur. It is known for the famous Jain temple of "Bhiladiyaji". The temple is a sacred place of pilgrimage where large number of Jain pilgrims assemble, especially on every full-moon day. An idol of Shri Gautam Gandhar in the temple bears an inscription dated Samvat 1334 which proves its antiquity.¹

Accordingly to a legend, this place was named as Bhiladiya because one Shrenik Kumar had married a Bhil girl here. The place also became famous as Trambavati. In the past, there were 125 Jain temples, and an equal number of wells and stepwells. Behind a Jain temple, there was 'Raj Gadhi' now in ruined condition, from where ruins of burnt bricks and stones are still discovered. It is believed that, before this place was destroyed by fire the Jain inhabitants left it at the instance of a Jain Muni and settled at another place which later became known as 'Radhan-

1. *Jain Tirth Sarva Sangrah*, Vol. I, Part I, p. 36.



pur'. Bhiladiyaji was resettled again in V. S. 1872. The fort around the village was built in V. S. 1936.¹

It appears that Bhildi was a place of archaeological importance in the past and was famous as Bhimpalli. The "*Bhimpalli gachcha*" of the Jain Munis was named after this place. There was a beautiful marble temple which was subsequently ruined. As Mr. Henry Cousens noted 'the temple had not only been razed to the ground but its foundations had even been dug out and the whole of the material carted away to be converted into lime.'² It is believed that the famous historical town of Kankavati was situated here.

The village is electrified and has a primary school, a secondary school, a dispensary, a stockman centre, a family planning centre, water works and post, telegraph and telephone facilities. There are branches of Dena Bank and the District Central Co-operative Bank.

Bhorol— Tharad Taluka (P. 1,956); V.P., 24°32' N. 71°33' E.

Bhorol is 20 km. from Tharad, the taluka headquarters. It is an ancient place of Jain pilgrimage. It was known as Pipalpur, Pipalgram, and Pipalpurpattana in the past. This place was prosperous till 15th century as revealed by the remains found from here. During those days Bhorol had 1,100 Jain families and several Jain temples. Munjashah, a businessman, had built in Vikram Samvat 1302, a magnificent Jain temple at Bhorol with 1,444 pillars, together with a step-well nearby at a total cost of Rs. 1.25 crores.³ This temple exists no more but the step-well still remains in a ruined condition. A black stone idol of Shri Neminathji was discovered from here in Samvat year 1922. An inscription found from a local temple of Hinglaj Mata indicates that this place was known as Pipalgram till Samvat year 1355 and was subsequently named as Bhorol. Bhorol has another Jain temple which was built during the 12th century. The temple has idols of Neminath which is revered by the Jains and others too. Bhorol has a primary school, a secondary school, a family planning centre and a post office.

1. *Jain Tirth Sarva Sangrah*, Vol. I, Part I, p. 38.

2. *Antiquities of N. Gujarat*, J. Burgess and H. Cousens (London), 1903.

3. *Jain Tirth Sarva Sangrah*, Vol. I, Part I, pp. 40-42.



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Chhapi—Vadgam Taluka (P. 3,802); V. P., 24° 02' N. 72° 24' E.

Chhapi is 17 km. from Vadgam, the taluka headquarters. It is a railway station on the Ahmadabad-Delhi metre-gauge line and an important business centre for the surrounding villages. The village has two primary schools, a secondary school, a *madresa*, water works, a maternity home and a post and telegraph office. There is a branch of the Bank of Baroda. Chhapi is a trading centre of gur, timber and cloth. It is a fairly big weaving centre.

Chitrasani—(Balaram)—Palanpur Taluka (P. 2,597); V.P., 24° 16' N. 72° 31' E.

Chitrasani is 14 km. north of Palanpur and a railway station between Palanpur and Abu Road on the Ahmadabad-Ajmer-Delhi metre gauge railway line. At a distance of 3 km., is the famous beauty spot named Balaram on the bank of the river Balaram, a tributary of the river Banas flowing by the temple of the Mahadev. The temple is visited by a large number of Hindu devotees every year in the month of Shravan. Every year a large fair is held on the last Monday of Shravan with a congregation of about 50,000 persons. It is a place of excellent natural scenery surrounded by picturesque hills, small streams and tall trees. There is a large lake, known as Gangasar, about 2 km. from here. A large palace of the former Nawab of Palanpur is situated here. At a distance of 5 km. is a small temple of "Dhara Mata" situated in the heart of the forest where tiger hunts were once organised.

Chitrasani has a primary school, a secondary school, an Ashram School, a training college for women, a maternity home, a health centre, a family planning centre and a post office.

Danta—(P. 2,944); V.P., 24°11'N. 72° 46' E.

Danta is the taluka headquarters, about 40 km. from Palanpur. It is connected by the State Transport bus services with Ambaji, Palanpur and other places in the district. Named after the Dantia or Dantoriya Vir who founded it, Danta is an ancient town existing since 16th century. It was the capital of the former Danta State which was a second class State. It enjoyed the special privilege of having within its territory the famous shrine of goddess 'Ambaji.' A very high quality white and green marble is found in Danta taluka.



Danta has two primary schools, a secondary school, a dispensary with maternity home, a health centre, a family planning centre, a veterinary dispensary, a stone quarry and a taluka seed godown. It has post, telegraph and telephone facilities. There are branches of Dena Bank and District Central Co-operative Bank. Danta has its own water works and electric sub-station.

Dantiwada—Dhanera Taluka (P. 1,741); V.P., 24°19' N. 72° 20' E.

Dantiwada village is 32 km. from Palanpur and 10 km. from Chandisar, the nearest railway station on the Palanpur Deesa railway line. It is also served by the State Transport bus services. A major irrigation dam known as Dantiwada Dam, has been built up near the village, which is estimated to provide irrigation to 120,000 acres of land. It would benefit Palanpur, Deesa and Kankrej talukas of this district. At a distance of 5 km. from this village, there is 'Rani Kund', an important place of interest. The village has three primary schools and a post office.

It is said that Dantiwada was formerly known as 'Danta Patak'. A Jain temple of Shri Adishwar seems to have been built during the 11th century of the Vikram era. A stone inscription on one of the idols bears Samvat year 1236. There is a Jain Upashraya here which was built in the Samvat year 1897. In one of the niches of this Upashraya there is a white idol of Shri Mahavir Swami. It is said that the idol belonging to the 12th century was discovered from a nearby mountain and was subsequently consecrated here.¹

Deesa—(P. 28,324); N. P., 24° 15' N. 72° 11' E.

Deesa is situated on a rising ground on the east bank of the river Banas about 26 km. east of Palanpur, the district headquarters. It is the headquarters of the taluka and sub-division and a railway station on the Palanpur-Gandhidham railway line. It is an important centre of the State Transport bus service and is connected with Palanpur, Juna Deesa, Tharad, Radhanpur and other places. In the year 1821, there was a British cantonment on the north east of the town where military forces were stationed to counteract the plundering and marauding activities of the chiefs between Kutch and Abu. According to a local story, Deesa was once the headquarters of 500 villages.

1. *Jain Tirth Sarva Sangrah*, Vol. I, Part I, pp. 35-36.



It is one of the most important trading centres in Gujarat for potatoes which are grown in abundance in the river bed of Banas. The Gujarat Agro-industries Corporation has built here a cold storage plant for potatoes. Though smaller than Palanpur, Deesa was a more important trading centre in the past as it lay on the highway between Rajasthan and Gujarat. There are several oil mills and factories manufacturing oil engines, iron implements, cement pipes etc. It has a godown for improved seeds, an agricultural produce market yard and an agricultural research station established in the Second Five Year Plan. There is an Agricultural School which runs diploma courses in agriculture. Deesa has an aerodrome and an observatory run by the Meteorological Department. It is the headquarters of Dantiwada canal division with a residential colony for the staff. It has taluka and sub-divisional offices, rest-house and municipality providing piped water and public gardens. There is a cinema house also.

Deesa has three primary schools, three secondary schools, two libraries, an Arts and Commerce college, a hospital and four dispensaries. There are branches of (i) Dena Bank, (ii) United Commercial Bank (iii) State Bank of India, (iv) Central Bank and (V) Urban Co-operative Bank.

Juna Deesa—Deesa Taluka (P. 6,022); V. P., 24° 13' N'. 72° 09' E.

Juna Deesa is 2 km. from the taluka headquarters. It was originally known as Faridabad, and was a flourishing town in the past. It has an ancient temple of Sidhha-Ambica, the family diety of Dasaval Vaniyas. It has water works, a primary health centre, a nursing home, a family planning centre, two primary schools, a secondary school and a library. There is a branch of the District Central Co-operative Bank. An annual fair is held near the temple of Sidhha-Ambica on Aso Sud 15.

Deodar—(P. 3,859); V. P., 24° 06' N., 71° 46' E.

Deodar, the headquarters of the taluka, is 70 km. from Palanpur. It is a railway station on the Palanpur-Gandhidham railway line and is served by the State Transport bus services. Deodar was the principal town and the residence of the chief of the former Deodar State. Being the taluka headquarters it has all taluka level offices, besides a seed multiplication farm and a veterinary dispensary.

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Deodar has a sub-market yard which organises a cattle fair on Vaishakh Sud 11 to 15.

The village has a Bal Mandir, two primary schools, a secondary school, a public dispensary, water works and post, telegraph and telephone facilities. There are branches of State Bank of India and District Central Co-operative Bank. Deodar has a ginning press.

Dev—Radhanpur Taluka (P. 1,066); V. P., 23° 57' N., 71° 38' E.

Dev, also known as Dev Gam, is a railway station on the Palanpur-Gandhidham line. It is 15 km. from Radhanpur, the headquarters with which it is connected by the State Transport bus services. It is a place of religious importance having the temple of 'Himja Mata', where a big fair is held on Chaitra Sud 15 every year. The village has a primary school, a family planning centre and a post office.

Dev-Darbar—Kankrej Taluka (P. 9); G.P., 24° 01' N. 71° 47' E.

Dev-Darbar is a tiny village 16 km. from Shihori, the headquarters of the taluka. There is an ancient temple of Nakalank Avatar. It is the seat of the Mahant known as Oghad Mahant of the Nath Sampradaya. A fair is held at this place on Kartik Sud 2. Horse-race is an unique attraction of the fair.

Dhanera—(P. 7,919); V.P., 24° 31' N., 72° 01' E.

Dhanera is the headquarters of the taluka of that name, about 60 km. from Palanpur, the district headquarters. It is a railway station on the Bhildi-Raniwada line of the Northern Railway and is also served by the State Transport bus services. Dhanera has two Jain temples, temple of Amba Mata and two mosques. It has four primary schools, a secondary school, a public library, a dispensary with maternity home, a veterinary dispensary, and post, telegraph and telephone facilities. Being the taluka headquarters, all taluka level offices are located here. There are branches of State Bank of India and District Central Co-operative Bank.

Dhima—Vav Taluka (P. 3,000); V. P., 24° 28' N., 71° 31' E.

Dhima is 12 km. from Vav with which it is connected by the State Transport bus services. The area round about is well-known

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for the superior breed of cattle called Kankreji. The climate is also conducive to breeding of camels and sheep. The wool of the sheep of this region is found to be of a very high quality. It is one of the important cattle markets where thousands of cattle are sold every year during the summer season. There is a well-known temple of Dharnidharji where three fairs are held every year on Jyestha Sud 15, Phalgun Sud 11 to Vad 1 and Kartik Sud 15. The temple is very ancient, where pilgrims come in large numbers. Dhima is a centre of snake worship. It is said that the village was originally known as Varahipuri but began to be popularly called Dhima because of the temple of Serpent God-Dhimar situated here. The idol of Dharnidharaji was installed here in V.S. 1477 (A.D. 1421) since when this place is known as Dharnidhar.

Dhima has a primary school, a secondary school, a primary health centre, a family planning sub-centre, a veterinary sub-centre and a post office.

Gotarka—Radhanpur Taluka (P. 1,552); V.P., 23° 45' N. 71° 29' E.

Gotarka is 27 km. south-west of Radhanpur, the taluka headquarters and 8 km. from Varahi the railway station on the Palanpur-Gandhidham line. There is a Ramji Mandir and *dargah* of Gotarka Pir. At a distance of about one km. there is the temple of Dhundharka Mahadev. A special attraction of this place is the *urs* which is held here every year and which is attended by Hindus and Muslims alike.

Gotarka has a primary school, a branch veterinary dispensary and a post office.

Iqbalgadh—Palanpur Taluka (P. 2,144); 24° 21' N. 72° 32' E.

Iqbalgadh is situated at a distance of 27 km. from Palanpur, the taluka and district headquarters and is a station on the Ahmadabad-Delhi main metre gauge railway line. About 8 km. from this place, are the famous Jasor hills on the top of which stands the temple of Kedarnath Mahadev. Water from hills flows perennially over the Shiv Ling. A large fair is held here during the *Shivratri* festival.

The village has a primary school and a post and telegraph office. There is a branch of State Bank of India.



Jalotra—Vadgam Taluka (P. 2,257)

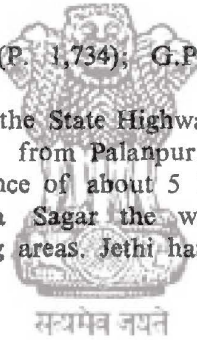
Jalotra is 12 km. from Vadgam and 18 km. from Palanpur which is also the nearest railway station. The village is situated on the Palanpur-Ambaji Road and is connected by the state Transport bus services. There is an ancient Shiv temple and a temple dedicated to Chamunda Mata. About 5 km. to the east of the village, there lies the Aravalli range of mountains.

It is a trading and business centre, especially of *gur* and as such it is sometimes recognised as the “Kolhapur of Banaskantha”

Jalotra has a primary school, a secondary school, a dispensary, a family planning centre and a post office.

Jethi—Palanpur Taluka (P. 1,734); G.P., 24° 19' N. 72° 30' E.

Jethi is situated on the State Highway of Ahmadabad-Marwar at a distance of 24 km. from Palanpur, the taluka and district headquarters. At a distance of about 5 km. from this place is a big lake named Ganga Sagar the water of which is used for irrigating the surrounding areas. Jethi has a primary school and a post office.



Kanodar—Palanpur Taluka (P. 5,275)

Kanodar is 13 km. from Palanpur and is connected with it by the State Transport bus services.

Popularly known as the ‘Manchester of the Banaskantha district,’ it is a big centre of hand-loom and power-loom weaving with ten weavers co-operative societies. There is a multi-purpose co-operative society. A branch of the Dena Bank has been opened here. It is the second biggest village in Palanpur taluka mainly populated by Momin weavers and farmers. It has an old mosque.

Kanodar has two primary schools, a secondary school, a *madresa*, a library, a health centre and a maternity home and family planning centre. It has post, telegraph and telephone facilities.



Kasara—Kankrej Taluka (P. 733)

Kasara, a small village of Kankrej taluka is at a distance of 30 km. from Radhanpur and connected by the State Transport bus services. The old temple at Kasara has three shrines dedicated to Shiv, Vishnu and Brahma. The temple is in a repairable condition. Almost every figure on the walls has been defaced¹. The pillars that support the temple are all of one pattern which is similar to the one found in the Ellora Caves. Dr. H. D. Sankalia ascribes the construction of this temple to the 11th century A.D.

Kasara has a primary school and a post office.

Koteswar—Danta Taluka (P. 305); G.P., 24° 21' N. 72° 54' E.

Koteswar is an ancient holy place 6 km. from Ambaji. It has the temple of Koteswar Mahadev. As the original temple was in a ruined condition, it was repaired and renovated a few years back. The temple is simple in style with no architectural designs. There is a Vishnu temple nearby, where idols of *Saptamatrukas*, Vishnu, etc., are preserved. The pilgrims visiting Ambaji also visit Koteswar. The river Saraswati starts from the hills situated near the temple. There is one *kund* wherein water of the river Saraswati flows from a 'Gau-mukhi' (mouth of cow) carved in stone where pilgrims take bath. Nearby is another temple named 'Valmikashram'. There is an idol of Lakulish on one of the temple walls. The village has a primary school and post and telegraph office, besides a good *dharmashala*.

Kumbhariya—Danta Taluka (P. 860); G. P., 24° 19' N. 72° 52' E.

Kumbhariya, about 3 km. from Ambaji and 23 km. from Danta is well-known for the five Jain temples known as the Kumbhariya temples. These five temples are dedicated to (i) Neminathji (ii) Mahavir Swami (iii) Parsvanathji (iv) Shantinathji and (v) Sambhavnathji. The temple of Neminathji seems to have been erected during the reign of Kumarpala, as implied by the inscription dated V.S. 1204 (A.D. 1148) found in its compound². The main shrine, the pillars and the ceilings are artistically decorated. The temple of Mahavir Swami has an inscription on the pedestal belonging to the original principle image in the *sanctum* which refers to the rend-

1. SOMPURA (DR.) K. F., *The Structural Temples of Gujarat* (1968), pp. 101, 105.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 159.



ering of the image of 'Tirthadhipa' at Arasana in V.S. 1118(A.D. 1062).¹ The interior carvings of the temple and the ceilings are beautifully decorated. The category of ceiling is termed as *Kshiptokshipta* by Dr. K.F. Sompura.² The Parsvanathji temple bears the earliest inscription on its pedestal dated V.S. 1161 (A.D. 1105). Its two floral pillars and the ceilings are noteworthy for exquisite workmanship. The temple of Shantinathji is similar to the Mahavir Swami temple. The ceilings are beautifully decorated. The inscriptions on the pedestals indicate that the temple was built in V.S. 1133 (A.D. 1077). The temple of Sambhavnathji is termed as *nirandhara* (i. e. without circumambulation) and also devoid of surrounding *devakulikas*.³ Its date of construction is not known.

According to Shri Jinviyaji, the temples at Kumbhariya resemble those of Abu, Nagada and Bhadreswar in style of construction.⁴

These temples represent the best in the Jain architecture. Marble carving and sculpture of these temples are marvellous and remind one of the Delwada temples at Mount Abu. These temples alongwith one Shiv temple are preserved as protected monuments. The Shiv temple though smaller in size resembles the Sun temple of Modhera in its architectural beauty. The temple is popularly known as 'Kumbheshwar Mahadev'. According to one opinion, the name Kumbhariya is believed to have been derived from 'Kumbhark'.⁵ Kumbhariya is considered to be a very holy place visited by thousands of Jains every year. The village has a primary school.

Latol—Danta Taluka (P. 138); G.P., 24° 06' N. 72° 54.' E.

Latol is about 33 km. south of Danta, the taluka headquarters and 73 km. from Palanpur. It has a hill named 'Maneknath' with two or three caves having *Dhuni* (fire) of Bava Maneknath. According to a local legend, there was an underground sub-way from Latol. The Math of Bawa Maneknath is situated in the village at the foot of the hill. The village has a primary school.

1. VISALVADAYAJI, *Kumbharia*, p. 43.
2. SOMPURA (DR.) K. F., *The Structural Temples of Gujarat* (1968), p. 444.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 197.
4. JINVIYAJI *Jain Lekh Sangrah*, Part II, p. 168.
5. DAVE K. B., *Ambika, Koteswar Ane Kumbhariya* (1963), p. 47.



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Magarwada—Vadgam Taluka (P. 2,304); V.P., 24° 04' N. 72° 28' E.

Magarwada is 5 km. from Vadgam, the taluka headquarters. The State Transport bus services connect it with important centres of the district during fair season. There is a famous temple of Mani Bhadra Vir, popular as Magarwadia Pir, who sacrificed his life for the protection of cows. It is said that during the fight his body was cut into three. One of the three parts including his feet was thrown here and consecrated at the temple. This is a place of pilgrimage where a large number of persons assemble at the time of the annual fair held on Ashvin Sud 5. The village has a primary school, a secondary school and a post office.

Mahudi—Danta Taluka (P. 124); G.P., 24° 18' N. 72° 59' E.

Mahudi is 17 km. from Danta and in the interior of the taluka, connected with it by a *kuicha* road on which the State Transport buses ply during fair season. Round about this village there are ruins of the old capital of the former Danta State known as 'Tarsang' or Tarsangama. This capital was seized by the Raos of Idar during the battle with Ranas of Danta in 1544 A.D. whereupon the Rana shifted his capital to Danta. There is an old tank near the village. The ruins of the fort and temples of Tarsangama are still found here, near a hill called 'Tarsangni Tekri'. The temple of Nilchhoya Mahadev here is in ruined condition and has a few old idols. Ruins of Shiv Panchayatan and Vishnu Panchayatan temples belonging perhaps to the 14th or 15th century, are also found at 'Kantivas' a nearby place where an ancient town is believed to have once existed¹. The village has a primary school.

Majadar—Vadgam Taluka (P. 3,790).

Majadar is one of the biggest villages of Vadgam taluka. It is 10 km. from the taluka headquarters and connected with it by the State Transport bus services. The temple of Ramdev Pir is popular. A fair is held near the temple on the Bhadrapad Sud 10.

Majadar has a primary school and a post office.

1. GAUDANI (DR.) H. R's articles in the *Nootan Gujarat*, dated 30-6-1968, 7-7-1968 and 14-7-1968.



Meta—Vadgam Taluka (P. 3,965).

Meta is another big centre of the taluka. It is 26 km. from Vadgam and is connected with it by the State Transport bus services. The silver work of this village is popular in the district.

The village has a primary school, a secondary school, a maternity home, a health centre and a post and telegraph office.

Mokeshvar—Vadgam Taluka (P. 155); G.P., 24° 02' N. 72° 38' E.

Mokeshvar is situated on the bank of the river Saraswati, at a distance of 22 km. from Vadgam, the taluka headquarters. The State Transport buses connect it with other important places of the district during fair weather. There is a temple of Mokeshvar Mahadev visited by a large number of people to make offerings to their forefathers for the peace of the departed souls. There is an ancient cave known as Pandav Gupha. Every year a big fair is held on Bhadrapad Sud 11 with an assemblage of 10,000 persons. Mokeshvar has a primary school.

Palanpur—(P. 42,114); Mu, 24° 10' N. 72° 26' E.

Palanpur is the headquarters of the Banaskantha district. It is a railway junction on the Ahmadabad-Delhi main metre-gauge railway line with a branch line to Kandla port via Deesa. It is also the central station of the State Transport bus services. The town is commanded and hidden by a circle of hillocks. It is a very old settlement where in the eighth century, Vanaraj, the founder of Chavda dynasty was brought up. Early in the 13th century it appears as Pahladan Patan, the capital of Pahladan Dev of the Parmar house of Chandravati.¹ In the 14th century, it was repeopled by Palansi Chauhans from whom it takes its present name. Early in the 17th century, the Chauhans were displaced by Musalman rulers of Jhalor family who continued to rule till Independence. It was the capital of the former first class State of Palanpur. The town was formerly surrounded by a brick and mortar wall, built in 1750 A.D. The former Gazetteer (1880) while describing the town referred to the irregular and closely packed houses and the narrow and dirty streets.

1. It is stated in the '*Hemsuri Prabandh*' of the '*Prabandh Kosha*' that king Pahladan of the Parmar dynasty of Abu had founded Pahladanpur (Palanpur) in A. D. 1184.



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‘Nothing was done to keep the town clean’ as a result of which ‘public health remained in unsatisfactory state.’

There is a big tank called ‘Mansarover’ and an ancient temple of Pataleshwar Mahadev. The temple is so called because it is built underground. It is said to have been built by Sidhraj Jaysinh of Patan who according to a local story was born at Palanpur.¹ There is an old Jain temple of Parsvanathji said to have been originally built by Prahladan Dev Parmar in the 13th century. The inscriptions in the shrine bear the date of V.S. 1274 (A.D. 1315). There are other two Jain temples nearby which are recently built. Another Jain temple dedicated to Shantinathji bears an inscription of V.S. 1331. A Hindu temple of Pataleshwar Mahadev also appears to be ancient. A local Muslim mosque bears an inscription of V.S. 1347.² All these facts suggest that Palanpur must have been a very prosperous town during the 13th century. Palanpur is famous for its flowers, viz; Champa and Kevada which made it a centre for the manufacture of *attar*, *gulkand* and perfumery. Several perfume factories exist even today. A laboratory centre for the manufacture of lac is established at this place for (conducting) experiments to increase its production. There is a Kirti Stambh and a Rajmahal, the old palace of the Nawab, now used for district offices. Outside Mira gate, there are two Dargahs, one of Poet Anwar Kazi and the other of Sant Mursheed, worshipped by Muslims.

Palanpur has an ancient architectural monument popularly known as ‘Mithi Wav’. It is built of stone, and in beauty and ornamentation belongs to the ancient period though neither its date nor the person who built it can be ascertained. Being in daily use for drinking water the well has remained in almost perfect preservation. It has seven galleries and on the wall on either side of the steps, as one descends to the water level, there are beautiful sculptures depicting figures from Hindu mythology. Similar sculptures, carved in relief may be seen on the top of the well-shaft at one end of the step-well. The noses of the figures have been mutilated at several places. The Mithi Wav is undoubtedly the most important architectural monument at Palanpur.

There are several good hospitals in the town including an eye hospital, a civil hospital, hospital for women and children, one

1. *Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. I (1908), P. 33.

2. GAUDAN₁ (DR.) H. R's articles in the *Nootan Gujarat*, dated 4-2-1968 and 11-2-1968.



technical high school, three hostels for boys and one for girls of backward classes, and a training school for primary teachers. The civil hospital has been equipped with x-ray machine, ambulance car, a regional public health laboratory and has a special accommodation of 10 beds for T.B. patients. The municipality which was started during the last quarter of the last century provides amenities of piped water supply, public gardens and a recreation centre. A private milk dairy called Banas Dairy has been recently started.

Palanpur has 13 primary schools, four secondary schools, two libraries, an Arts and Science college, nine dispensaries, a maternity home, and a family planning centre. There are branches of (i) Dena Bank (two branches), (ii) Union Bank of India, (iii) Bank of India, (iv) Bank of Baroda and (v) State Bank of India. The Banaskantha District Central Co-operative Bank was established here in 1960. It has 27 branches located at different centres of the district. There is also a branch of the Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank.

Parpada—Palanpur Taluka (P. 547); G.P., 24° 13' N. 72° 24' E.

Parpada is situated at a distance of 5 km. from Palanpur. It has a famous temple of Shitala Mata where a big fair is held on Shrvan Vad 7. The village has a primary school.

Radhanpur—(P. 18,360); N.P., 23° 50' N. 71° 36' E.

Radhanpur, headquarters of the taluka and prant is a railway station on the Palanpur-Gandhidham railway line. Formerly it was the seat of the Babi ruler of Radhanpur State. The name Radhanpur is said to have been derived from Radhan Khan, a descendant of Fateh Khan Baloch who under the Sultan of Ahmadabad held this place alongwith other grants. According to another story, it was established in 546 A.D. and was originally called Radhanpur from Radandev, a Chavda chief. In the past, Radhanpur was an important centre of trade and the largest town in Banaskantha. It had a town municipality established during the last quarter of the last century. It is surrounded by a fort-wall built partly of stone and partly of brick with loop-holed walls and seven bastioned gateways.



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Radhanpur has one oil mill, a ginning press, a seed multiplication farm and an agricultural produce market yard. Special amenities such as hospital, public garden, child recreation centres, etc., have been provided by the municipality. Besides there are two cinema houses, two Bal Mandirs, six primary schools, a secondary school, a library, a hospital, a dispensary, a health centre, a nursing home and a family planning centre. There are branches of (i) Dena Bank, (ii) Bank of Baroda, and (iii) State Bank of India.

Ratanpur—Palanpur Taluka (P. 841); G.P., 24° 09' N. 72° 29'E.

Ratanpur is a small village about 5 km. from Palanpur and connected with it by the State Transport bus services. There is a very large ancient banyan grove on the bank of the river Umardasi. It is a picnic spot. In this village, the Lok Niketan Institute has recently been opened for imparting training in post-basic education. Ratanpur has a primary school, one Ashram school, a secondary school and a post office.

Rupal—Vadgam Taluka (P. 1,971); V.P., 24° 02' N. 72° 30' E.

Rupal is situated at distance of 6 km. to the south of Vadgam, the taluka headquarters. It is connected with Vadgam by the State Transport bus services during fair weather. There is a famous temple of Shitla Mata where a big fair is held on Shravan Vad 7. Rupal has a primary school, a post office and water works.

Sanali—Danta Taluka (P. 566); G. P., 24° 13' N. 72° 58' E.

Sanali is 20 km. from Danta, the taluka headquarters with which it is connected by the State Transport bus services during fair season. It has a Sarvodaya Ashram established for the uplift of Adivasis, located between two rivers and hills in the middle of very attractive natural setting. It has a primary school, a secondary school and a post office.

Santalpur—(P. 2,422); V.P., 23° 46' N. 71° 10' E.

Santalpur is a railway station on the Palanpur-Gandhidham line, not far from the little Rann of Kutch. It is also served by the State Transport bus services. Santalpur belonged to the Jadeja Rajputs. Before the Jadejas came, Santalpur was held by



Turks, probably a colony from Sind. After them came the Jhalas, one of whom founded and gave his name to the village of Santalpur¹. There are two primary schools including a girls school, a public dispensary, a family planning centre, a veterinary dispensary, a rest-house, a police out-post and a post and telegraph office.

Sarotra—Palanpur Taluka (P. 1,627).

Sarotra is 45 km. from Palanpur and is connected with it by the State Transport bus services and the railway.

There is an old Jain temple, popularly known as *Bavan-Dhaja*, as the principal shrine is surrounded by 52 small cells (*Devakulikas*). Dr. Sankalia assigns this temple to the 13th or 14th century.² The temple is almost identical with several other Jain temples, at Bhadreswar (Kutch) and Abu.

Sarotra has a primary school and a post office.

Shihori—Kankrej Taluka (P. 5,849); V.P., 24° 02' N. 71° 57' E.

Shihori is the headquarters of the taluka, 22 km. from Bhildi the nearest railway station on the Palanpur-Gandhidham line. The place is connected by the State Transport bus services. This region is well-known throughout Gujarat for the best breed of bulls and cows known as "Kankreji" breed.

There are two primary schools a secondary school, a dispensary with maternity home, a primary health centre, a veterinary dispensary, a child welfare centre, a family planning centre, a post and telegraph office, a taluka seed godown and all taluka offices. There is a branch of Dena Bank

Suigam—Vav Taluka (P. 2,828); V.P., 24° 09' N. 71° 22' E.

Suigam is 30 km. from Bhabhar and a railway station on the Palanpur-Gandhidham line. It is situated on a small hill 10 km., from the little Rann of Kutch. The village was founded in 1569 A.D. by

1. *Palanpur Agency Directory*, Vol. I (1908), p. 199.
2. *The Archaeology of Gujarat*, p. 112.



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Rana of Vav who named it after 'Sui', a Rabari who lived there. This tract being backward, a small hospital with 6 beds has been established for the benefit of the people of the surrounding villages. Being in close proximity of the Rann, the water is brackish and scarce which renders people liable to infection from guinea-worm diseases.

Suigam has a primary school, a dispensary, a family planning centre and post, telegraph and telephone facilities.

Thara—Kankrej Taluka (P. 5,785); V.P., 23° 58' N. 71° 49' E.

Thara is 20 km. from Deodar, a railway station on the Palanpur-Gandhidham railway line and served by the State Transport bus services. It was the largest and the most important estate in Kankrej taluka held by the chief of the Vaghela clan of Kolis. There is a temple of Valinath Mahadev where a fair is held on the Maha Shivaratri day. Thara is an important marketing centre of the surrounding villages. The village has a primary school, a secondary school, a public library, a dispensary, a maternity home, a veterinary centre and post, telegraph and telephone facilities. There is a branch of Dena Bank.

Tharad—(P. 8,361); V.P., 24° 24' N. 71° 38' E.

Tharad is the headquarters of the taluka and prant, about 96 km. from Palanpur and connected with Deesa on the east and Suigam on the west by an asphalt road on which the State Transport buses regularly ply. The nearest railway station is Deesa situated about 60 km. away. It is the oldest town in Palanpur, agency said to have been founded in Samvat 101 by one Thirpal Dharu, a Parmar Rajput who migrated from Marwar.¹ Tharad is mentioned as Tharapad in the '*Prabhavak Charita*.'² It was also known as Thirpur, Thiradi, Tharapadra, Thirapadra, etc., The sister Harku of Thirpal Dharu had built here a Jain temple, having 1444 pillars. This temple exists no more but its ruins are found on excavations.³ Tharad

1. According to the following couplet, popular in this part, Tharad was founded in Samvat 101 (A.D. 45) :

“શ્રીપુર નગરકો છોડકે પશ્ચિમ ગયો પરમાર સંવત એકસો એક મેં વસ્યો શહેર થરાદ”

Source :

Apnun Tharad by Doshi Punamchand N. (1958).

2. *Gujaratno Rajkiya Ane Sanskrutik Itihas* : Edited by Rasiklal C. Parikh and Hariprasad G. Shastri (Vol. I), p. 366.

3. *Jain Tirth Sarva Sangrah*, Vol. I, Part I, pp. 40-41.



was an important centre of Jainism in the past. Several inscriptions available from the Jain temples of Tharad indicate its religious importance. All the temples that exist today in Tharad were built between the 18th and 20th century of the Vikram era. But the idols in these temples are old belonging to the period as early as the 8th century.

The town remained under the Parmar rulers till the tenth century, when it was taken by Mulraj Solanki of Patan. In 1275 A.D. Tharad was taken by Chauhans of Nadol in Rajasthan. The Chauhans were conquered by the Muslims in the 15th century, but they again conquered it and continued to rule over it till the 17th century when it was taken by a Mogul force. In 1680, Tharad was given to Sher Safdar Khan Babi of Radhanpur and four years later it was again placed under a deputy of the Ahmadabad Viceroy. In 1736 Chauhan Jetmal gained possession of Tharad but was immediately driven out. However, he sought the help of the Radhanpur Nawab who kept it in his possession till 1759. The Nawab gave it to the Vaghela rulers who remained it rulers thereafter.

Inscriptions found from the local Jain temples indicates that Tharad was an important centre of Jain pilgrimage since the 17th century.¹ Besides the main Jain temples, which are 11 in number, there is an old temple of 'Nan Devi' or 'Naran Devi' built in the 12th, century by Chauhan Ratansingh in honour of his family goddess.

All taluka and prant offices, a rest-house, a market-yard, a seed-multiplication farm and a taluka seed godown are located at this place. A cottage hospital has been established here in the year 1972-73.

Tharad has water works, electricity and telephone facilities. It has two primary schools, a secondary school, a library, a health centre, a nursing home, a family planning centre and a cinema house. There are branches of State Bank of India, the Urban Co-operative Bank and the District Central Co-operative Bank.

Vadgam—(P. 4,522); V.P., 24° 05' N. 72° 29' E.

Vadgam is situated 8 km. from Umardeshi, a railway station on the Ahmadabad-Delhi railway line. It is also connected by the

1. *Jain Tirth Sarva Sangrah*, Part I, Vol. I, p. 38.



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State Transport buses with the district headquarters. Formerly, it was a seat of the chief of Vadgam State. It is a marketing centre for surrounding villages growing crops like sugarcane and rice. There are 10 handloom units, 2 saw mills, and one flour mill. Being the taluka headquarters, all taluka level offices are situated here. Besides there are two primary schools, a secondary school a maternity home, a family planning centre, a veterinary centre, and a post and telegraph office. There are branches of Dena Bank and Bank of Baroda.

Varahi—Santalpur Taluka (P. 5,306); V.P., 23° 48' N. 71° 27' E.

Varahi is the headquarter town of the Santalpur taluka since 1934 and its biggest trading centre. It is railway station on Palanpur-Gandhidham railway line, and is served by the State Transport bus services. It was held by Ravanias from whom it was wrested by Jats, the migrants from Sind (711 A.D.). Formerly, it was the headquarters of the Varahi thana. Varahi has two Hindu temples, a Jain temple and a mosque. There is an old temple of Varahi Mata at a distance of about 2 km. north of the village Fulpura. Several old memorial stones (Paliyas) are found at this temple. The town seems to have derived its name from Varahi Mata. A cattle fair is held every year for five days from Chaitra Vad 13 to Vaishakha Sud 2. Being the taluka headquarters all taluka level offices are located here. Besides, there are two primary schools, a secondary school, a public dispensary and a family planning centre, water works, and branches of the Dena Bank and the Banaskantha Central Co-operative Bank.

Vav—(P. 5,238); V.P., 24° 22' N. 71° 31' E.

Vav is the headquarters of the taluka of that name, 30 km. from Bhabhar, a railway station on Palanpur-Gandhidham line. It is also connected with Palanpur and Tharad by the State Transport bus services. Formerly, it was the seat of Rana of Vav who claimed descent from Pruthviraj- the last of Chauhan kings of Delhi. It was founded by Rana Vaja of Vav 12 km. west of Tharad, near a step-well (constructed by his grand-father), from which the village bears its name. According to a legend, queen Sodhi of Chauhan Punjaji of Tharad went away with her infant child Bajaji when her husband was killed during a war with the Muslims and took shelter of Dipa Bhil. Bajaji built a Vav

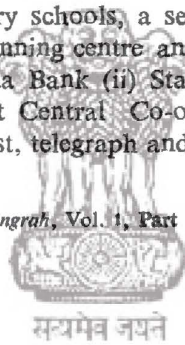


(step-well) where a small village was subsequently formed which was also named Vav. Vav has an old Jain temple of Ajitnath. The idol in this temple is the one which was originally consecrated in the Jain temple of Tharad and was subsequently shifted here when the Muslims invaded Tharad. This temple is believed to have been built during the 14th or 15th century of the Vikram era. It has a total of 135 idols of which 5 are very ancient. Besides this temple, there are 2 other Jain temples, two Upashrayas and a Jain Dharma-shala.¹ There are ancient temples of Kapileshwar and Budheshwar Mahadev.

Shortage of water is felt at this place especially in summer when the water becomes brackish. The place is therefore, covered under the 'Regional Water Supply Scheme' introduced by the Government.

Vav has two primary schools, a secondary school, a primary health centre, a family planning centre and a maternity home. There are branches of (i) Dena Bank (ii) State Bank of India (iii) and the Banaskantha District Central Co-operative Bank. The village is electrified and has post, telegraph and telephone facilities.

1. *Jain Tirth Sarva Sangrah*, Vol. 1, Part 1, p. 42.





APPENDIX I

Recent Archaeological discoveries in the District

The Banaskantha district which once formed part of ancient Anarta, was terra-incognito from the archaeological point of view. The earliest explorations in the district, were carried out by Burgess and Cousens in the latter part of the 19th century A.D.¹ They may be considered pioneers in studying the antiquities in the district. Burgess and Cousens located monuments at Sarotra, Roho (Palanpur taluka) and ruins of temples at Bhildi, Mudetha and Khemana (all in Deesa taluka) and thus threw light on the medieval architecture of Gujarat.

In the year 1955, S. N. Chowdhary of the M. S. University of Baroda, carried out explorations in the district with a view to bringing out the archaeological potentialities of the area.² He explored the Banas Valley around Deesa and discovered late stone age sites. The late stone age tools were discovered from the top of the river sections from the loessic deposits and these consisted of flakes, cores, blades, scrapers, etc. Basically they were non-geometric microlithic tools, manufactured by using semi-precious raw materials such as jasper, chert, chalcedony, agate, carnelian, etc.

The author, under the auspices of the Archaeological Survey of India, carried out village to village explorations in the district, between the years 1957--59, with a view to investigating into the archaeological potentialities of the area. As a result of this work, late stone age sites,³ early historic and medieval period sites were discovered.⁴ Besides, sculptures belonging to the early medieval period and sculptures and temples belonging to the medieval period were also discovered.⁵

In the year 1963--64, J. P. Joshi of the Archaeological Survey of India carried out explorations in the western most region of the district near the small desert of Kachchh.⁶ He explored a few villages

1. BURGESS AND COUSENS, "*Architectural Antiquities of Northern Gujarat*", 1902.
2. SUBBARAO B., "*Personality of India*", 1953, p. 71.
3. *Indian Archaeology--1958-59*, A Review, p. 69.—
4. PARIKH R. T., *Archaeology of the Banaskantha District*, (A. Ph. D.—thesis submitted to the M.S. University, Baroda, 1978.)
5. *Ibid.*
6. JOSHI J. P., "*Explorations in Kutch and Excavations at Surkotada and new light on Harppan migration*", *Journal of the Oriental Institute*, M. S. University of Baroda, Vol. XXII, 1972--73, pp. 98-144.



in the Radhanpur taluka of the district and located late stone age sites, medieval and late medieval period sites.¹

Although a good number of sites, belonging to the different periods of human history were located by the explorers and important antiquities were brought to light, a connected picture was still wanting. It was, therefore, felt that more intensive planned work was required, so as to prepare the sequence of cultures from the pre-historic period upto 1500 A.D., and to show the area was influenced by the other neighbouring areas and its role in the progress in the overall civilisation. With this aim in view, the author resumed the field work in the district in the year 1963 and continued upto 1973. It may be mentioned that nearly 900 villages were explored and evidences throwing light on the material culture belonging to various periods of Indian history were collected. The efforts resulted in the discovery of 175 new sites.

The present note is the result of the study and interpretation of the material evidences explored in the Banaskantha district.

Summary of the Results

I. STONE AGE CULTURES

(i) *Early and Middle Stone Age Periods*—All the river systems in the Banaskantha district—the Banas, the Saraswati, and the Balaram—were explored and all the gravely and other deposits of the river sections were carefully examined in order to find out the material remains of the early stone age man. Explorations have not brought to light any evidences of the early stone age man. With regard to the middle stone age, it may be mentioned that a large scraper on pebble on chert has been discovered from the loose gravels lying in the river bed at Dantiwada (Dhanera taluka). But, no stratigraphic evidences of the above period of human history could be noticed. It was, therefore, felt that the area was sparsely occupied by the man belonging to the middle stone age.

(ii) *Late Stone Age Period*—The earliest culture, which has been discovered in the Banaskantha district, belongs to the late stone age. All the rivers were explored, but only the Banas has revealed the presence of microliths.

1. JOSHI J. P., “Explorations in Kutch and Excavations at Surkotada and new light on Harappan migration”, Journal of the Oriental Institute, M. S. University of Baroda, Vol. XXII, 1972--73, pp. 98-144.



A chain of microlithic sites has been found on both the banks of the river Banas right from Dabhela (taluka Palanpur), from where the river enters the district, upto Juna Deesa and Vadaval. The microlithic stone tools have been discovered from the top of the river sections from the loessic deposits. Microlithic stone tools discovered from the Banas valley consist of fluted cores, cores, flakes, blades, scrapers, and hollow scrapers. These tools are made from the semi-precious raw material like chert, chalcedony, agate, jasper, quartz, etc. A study of the cores indicates that platforms were very carefully prepared and flakes were systematically removed. Some of the tools show good evidences of retouching. We find no evidence of tools having geometric shapes (Pl. 46).

It may be mentioned that no tools discovered from the Banas valley are rolled. Therefore, there might have been local settlements where late stone age man might have stayed. This has been proved by the location of the rock shelter at Amirgadh, a town situated on the left bank of the river Banas.

Late Stone age 'Rock shelter'—One of the most important discoveries, that has been made during the explorations carried out in the district, is the location of the rock shelter at Amirgadh, a small town in the Palanpur taluka (Pl. 54). The town Amirgadh is situated in the picturesque Banas valley and the entire landscape around the town is beautiful. On the back of the rock shelter and on the other side of the river Banas are the Aravalli range of hills, the presence of which adds to the beauty of the entire landscape.

In the western side of the town and on the left bank of the river Banas, a rock shelter has been located (fig. 54). The entire rock shelter is a granitic hill. As a matter of fact, there are two rock hills (of which one is a rock shelter and the other is a simple small hill), one big and the other a small one. The bigger one (which is a rock shelter) is known as 'Raja Tekri' while the other which is nearly 100 mts., away in the north is known as 'Rani Tekri'.

The hill which is known locally as 'Raja Tekra' and which is actually the rock shelter, is about 40 mts., high from the ground level. It is horse-shoe in shape. There are three openings in the rock shelter—one in the south, the other in the north and the third in the east. The two rock shelters, which are in the east and the north respectively, are like caves, while the third one, identified as a rock

mts. =metres



shelter in the true sense of the term, has a projection of nearly 3 mts. and is 4 mts., high from the ground level. It has an opening of nearly 5 mts. The entire appearance of the rock shelter shows that, pre-historic man was having a good sense of selecting the site, for the use of his daily activities.

The northern and the eastern openings are simple and may not be considered as very significant as they might have been used by the late stone age man as 'shelters' only. The southern opening was very important for the late stone age man. It was a place where, perhaps, he might be sitting with his group in order to manufacture the tools as we find flakes, cores, blades, fluted cores in good number on the ground of the shelter (Pl. 43). It appears that this rock shelter had been used continuously since the time of the late stone age upto the medieval period II, because we find the inscription in red ochre belonging to the medieval period II, on the side of it.

The lithic assemblage found underneath the rock shelter and around it, are the late stone age tools. Typologically the tools are similar to those found on both the banks of the Banas river. These tools consist of cores, fluted cores, flakes, blades, scrapers made on chert, chalcedony, agate and jasper. Basically, the tools are non-geometric in nature. No pottery is found along with the tools.

Considering the nature of the material found, it can be said that the rock shelter was being used by the late stone age man. Banas valley late stone age tools, looking to the types may be dated to 3000 B.C. (on the basis of the Rangpur evidences) and, therefore, tools found underneath the rock shelter and around it, may also be dated to 3000 B. C.¹ Rock shelter and the lithic assemblage found at Amirgadh, may be compared with similar rock shelters and the lithic assemblages found at Tarsang (Gujarat) and Adamgadh (M.P.).²

II. CHALCOLITHIC CULTURE

The culture which, perhaps, followed the late stone age culture, was the chalcolithic proto-historic culture. A very rich and important site, Amasari-no-Tekro, has been located at Zekada in the Santalpur taluka of the district.

1. SONAVANE V.H., "*Tarsang an important Archalological site*", Journal of the M.S. University, Baroda, Vol. XXII, 1973 and Vol. XXII, 1974 combined issue, pp. 57-60.

2. PARIKH R. T., "*Archaeology of the Banaskantha District, op. cit.*"



The site Amasari-no-Tekro at Zekada ($23^{\circ}40'$ North and $71^{\circ}20'$ East) is situated at a distance of $6\frac{1}{2}$ km. to the north of Varahi, the headquarters of the Santalpur taluka. The site is one and a half kilometres away to the north of the village.

The mound at Amasari-no-Tekro at Zekada has an average height of 4 to 6 mts. and is higher on the eastern side and lower on the western side and has a depression in the middle. The total area occupied by the mound might be approximately 1000 sq. mts. The western and the southern sides of the mound are damaged due to the removal of the earth in order to build up the embankment of the nearby tank, during the time of scarcity.

The site at Zekada has yielded almost all types of pottery belonging to the great Harappan culture (Pl. 44). In addition to it, the site has yielded the late stone age tools (Pl. 38) and the reserved slip ware (Pl. 39). Zekada has also yielded the evidences of the post-Harappan culture represented by the lustrous red ware. In addition to the above, black and red ware, both white painted and plain, showing the influence of the south-eastern Rajasthan, has also been found. Considering the evidences, the site could be dated from 2300 B.C. to 1200 B.C. on the basis of the dates provided by Lothal, Surkotada and Rangpur.¹

A study of the material remains explored at Zekada focusses attention on the movement of the Harappans towards the south-east. The discovery of the Harappan site in the district, has proved beyond doubt that the Harappan culture did not confine itself to Kachchh and Saurashtra but it also crossed the small Rann of Kachchh and penetrated into the northern Gujarat. From there, it is likely that, it has gone further into the interior towards Patan, in the Mahesana district. The discovery of the lustrous red ware at Zekada further throws light on the cultural contacts of the region with Saurashtra. As stated, white painted black-and-red ware, akin to that of Ahar culture in Rajasthan, has also been found at Zekada. This ware has also been found at Surkotada in Kachchh. It is quite possible that the white painted black-and-red ware, might have entered Kachchh from south-eastern Rajasthan through Zekada. Zekada, therefore, seems to be the meeting place of three cultural elements namely the Harappan, which might have come from Sind either directly or indirectly through Kachchh, the lustrous-red-ware, which might have come from Saurashtra, and the black

PARIKH R. T., "Archaeology of the Banaskantha District", *op. cit.*



and-red ware, which might have come from the south eastern Rajasthan.

The occurrence of the Reserved Slip ware (Pl. 39) pushes the antiquity of the site to a considerable extent.

The discovery of the Harappan site across the desert of Kachchh in the east in the Banaskantha district, has further extended the horizon of the Harappan culture in Western India. The material culture found undoubtedly pushes back the early history of the Banaskantha district, which was hitherto shrouded in legends and traditions.

CHALCOLITHIC SITE AT BHORAL

Extremely shallow site has been found at Bhoral, a village in the Tharad taluka of the district. The site is situated very near to the village in the north-west. The cultural deposit at the site is not much. Typologically, the ceramic industry explored at Bhoral seems to be late Harappan in date.

EARLY HISTORIC CULTURE

One of the objectives in undertaking the present field-work in Banaskantha district, was to investigate into the nature of the early historic culture, as no data was forthcoming for the period. As a result of field-work, four early historic sites namely Benap (taluka Vav), Juna-Deesa (taluka Deesa) and Bhoral and Tharad (taluka Tharad) were located.

Evidences belonging to the early historic culture consist of the ceramic industry. It is characterised by two types of pottery. One of the types consists of the pottery with black designs on a red slipped surface. Similar ware also occurs at Vasai, Lakhbawal and Amra in Saurashtra. The pottery has been named as Vasai ware. This Vasai ware is the variant of the Rangmahal ware, while the other is the black-on-red ware. This pottery has much affinity with the pottery found at Vadnagar in north Gujarat from the levels yielding the evidences of early historic culture.¹

1. SUBBARAO B. AND MEHTA R. N., "Excavation at Vadnagar," Journal of the M. S. University of Baroda, Vol. 1, 1952, pp. 24.



Besides the above, a hoard of 101 punch-marked coins has also been discovered from the Banaskantha district.¹ The coins are now distributed among various museums in the country. Important sculptures throwing light on the classical Gupta art and belonging to the closing years of the period have also been found at Koteshwar² in the Danta taluka.

Medieval Period I (600 A. D. to 950 A. D.)

Explorations in the district have also brought to light remarkable sculptures throwing light on the early medieval period sculptural art. The discovery of these sculptures has given a distinct personality to the region. Two sets of Saptamatrikas have been discovered each from Koteshwar³ (taluka Danta) and Vadaval⁴ (taluka Deesa) (Pl. 48 to 53). The Saptamatrika set discovered from Koteshwar is carved out from green schist while that discovered from Vadaval is carved out from marble. The Matrika sculptures and the sculptures belonging to the group discovered at Vadaval, might be the first pieces carved out from marble in Gujarat and, therefore, the artists practicing at Vadaval may be considered pioneers for the introduction of new material in the field of sculptural art in Gujarat. Besides these, a few more pieces belonging to the period have also been found.

The discovery of these remarkable sculptures has expanded the horizon of the school of Ancient West started by Srīngadhara and referred to by Taranath, a Tibetan historian of the 16th century A. D. The discovery of the sculptures at Vadaval has proved beyond doubt that besides Dungarpur, Shamalaji and Idar areas, there were other centres where sculptors were working under master artists. Thus, Vadaval has the honour of being one of such centres. The Matrika sculptures discovered from Koteshwar, stylistically, belong to the 6th century A. D., while Matrikas and other sculptures from Vadaval may stylistically belong to the late 7th century A. D., or early 8th century A. D. Dr. U. P. Shah has paid handsome tribute to the image discovered from Vadaval. He observes

1. GUPTA, PARMESWARILAL, "Coin Hoards from Gujarat State", Numismatics Notes and Monographs, No. 15, 1969, pp. 6.
2. PARIKH R. T. "Two Gana sculptures from Gujarat", Journal of the Society of Oriental Art, New Series, Vol. II, 1967-68, pp. 52-53.
3. SHAH U. P., "Matrika and other Sculptures from North Gujarat", Bulletin of the Baroda Museum and picture gallery, Vol. XIV, 1962, pp. 29-32.
4. SOUNDARA RAJAN K. V. AND PARIKH R. T., "A Magnificent Group of Saptamatrikas and Parvati from Vadaval, North Gujarat", Bulletin of the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India, Bombay, No. 7, 1959-62, pp. 46-54.



“The female forms of Gujarat and Rajasthan dating from 10th century A. D., have been derived from the excellent forms of the preceding three centuries, typical specimens of which are available in the set of Matrikas of Vadaval of late 7th century A. D.”

Medieval Period II (C 950 A. D. to 1300 A. D.)

The emergence of provincial power, after the downfall of the mighty Gurjara-Pratihara power, had a good impact on the cultural development of the region. Art and architecture in Gujarat started getting a new treatment. The Solankis (10th to 13th century A.D.) emerged as a very powerful patrons of art. Temples belonging to this period have been discovered in the district. Among them may be mentioned Muleshwar Mahadev temple at Padan (taluka Vav) and Kapaleshwar Mahadev temple at Vav (taluka Vav). The temple at Padan, stylistically is datable to the last decade of the 10th century A. D. Kapaleshwar temple of Vav is totally renovated but the sculptural art found on the *jangha*, indicates that it belongs to the early part of the 11th century A. D. Besides this, dilapidated temple and ruins of temples have been found at Rampura (taluka Dhanera), Paswar (taluka Dhanera), Hathidara (taluka Palanpur), Gadhada (taluka Danta), Terwada (taluka Deesa), Dungarasan (taluka Kankrej), Parakhadi (taluka Vadgam), Chaniyana (taluka Vadgam) and Dungarpura (taluka Palanpur).

Field work has also brought to light quite a large number of sculptures belonging to the Solanki period.

Remarkable metal sculptures, important from the view point of art and iconography, have been found during the field work. These metal sculptures have been discovered from Tharad (taluka Tharad)¹ Bhoral (taluka Tharad), Khimat (taluka Dhanera) and Asra (taluka Vav). All the metal sculptures discovered belong to Jainism.

Of all the centres of Jainism in the district, the town Tharad, ancient Tharapadra, has yielded the largest number of metal sculptures, about one hundred and fifty in total. Many of the images are dated and these dates vary from Samvat 1217 (*i. e.* 1160 A.D.

1. PARIKH R. T., “Recently discovered hoard of Bronzes from Tharad, District Banaskantha”, Journal of the oriental Institute M. S. University of Baroda, Vol. XXIV, 1974, No. 1-2, pp. 250-56.



to Samvat 1514 *i. e.* 1457 A.D.) Besides, the above hoard of sculptures a lotus-shaped bronze (Pl. 45) and a remarkable image of Parshwanath in silver (Pl. 40-41) have also been found. The silver image has a dedicatory inscription dated in V. S. 1220 (1163 A. D.), and the installation ceremony of the image was performed by Hemachandrasuri, the greatest Jain monk and scholiast of the age.

Besides the above antiquities, medieval glazed ware has also been found from many sites in the district. The district has also yielded the coarse black ware, the coarse red ware and the coarse grey ware in different shapes, typologically belonging to the medieval period.

This is the archaeological personality of the Banaskantha district right from the dawn of civilization upto 1500 A.D. The evidences point out that in the late stone age, man was wandering over large areas, but from the chalcolithic period, stable habitations have been found as village and towns began to develop. During the medieval period the distribution of habitates took the present form with the passage of time.

The evidences explored have proved that up to the first half of the 3rd millennium B.C., the area was occupied by the late stone age man, who was leading a nomadic life. He might have developed contacts with the neighbouring areas or might have led an isolated life.

In the first half of the third millennium B.C., the district came into contact with the most magnificent urban chalcolithic culture, namely, the Harappan culture. The chalcolithic culture noticed at Zekada is a very rich yielding the important elements of the Harappan culture. In addition to it, the site has yielded the Reserved slip ware and the cream slipped ware. On the basis of the evidences available, the district might have developed relations with the neighbouring areas of Sind, Saurashtra and Kachchh.

The habitation continued on the site (Zekada) in the late and post-Harappan periods also. Many late Harappan pottery types have been found at the site. The late Harappan people in the district might have maintained relations with the neighbouring areas of Kachchh and Saurashtra. The post-Harappan people residing at Zekada might have developed relationships with the contemporary post-Harappan



cultures in Saurashtra and Kachchh. Looking to the evidences, Banaskantha district was under the occupation of the chalcolithic people upto 1000 B.C.

Early historic period in the district has been strengthened by the discovery of the punch-marked coins and pottery. Discovery of the Vasai ware correlates the district with Rajasthan, Saurashtra and Kachchh and other parts and north Gujarat. The punch-marked coins also correlate the district with Saurashtra, Kachchh, Rajasthan and north Gujarat. In the closing decades of the period, the district enjoyed the influence of the Gupta art. Classical Gupta art influence may be correlated with the Gupta art idiom found in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Saurashtra.

The material culture found in the district has thrown light on the westward spread of the 'School of Ancient West' and thus widened the horizon of the 'early medieval art school'. During the medieval period I, the district maintained very close to cultural relationships with southern Rajasthan and with other parts of north Gujarat. The school was functioning in the area upto 900 A.D. After 900 A.D., Western idiom becomes more prominent and Marwar and Gujarat evolved a common cultural tradition in the field of sculptural art. From the 10th century onwards, we find an emergence of a very powerful dynasty which gave the region a distinct personality in the field of sculptural art and architecture. From the closing years of the 13th century onwards, with the arrival of Muslims on the scene, all the cultural activities seem to have ceased and the district lost its identity like other regions of the country.



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APPENDIX II

Brief information about each site discovered in the Banaskantha district :

Palanpur taluka :

Ambetha	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Amirgadh	—Late stone age site Rockshelter. Medieval period II site Habitation, Sculptures.
Angola	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Asmapura	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Badarpura	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Balaram	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Balundra	—Late stone age site.
Bhagal	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Bhatamal Moti	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Chadotar	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Chandisar	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Chekhala	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Dalwada	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Delwada	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Dabhela	—Late stone age site.
Dungarpura	—Medieval period II site, Small temple dated Samvat 1257 (A.D. 1201).
Ghanghu (Gangava)	—Medieval period II site, Ruins of temples, Sculptures.

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Gadhada	—Medieval period II site, Ruins of temples, Sculptures.
Gola	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Hathidra	—Medieval period II site, Ruins of temple, Sculptures.
Jagana	—Medieval period II site, Habitation Sculptures.
Jasleni (Jasbodi)	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Karjoda	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Khodla	—Medieval period II site, Memorial stones.
Khunia	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Kidotar	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Kumbhasan	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Kushakal	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Madana (Dangia)	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Madana (Gadh)	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Malan	—Medieval period II site, Mosque.
Mota	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Nalasar	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Palanpur	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures, Fort.
Patosan	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Rampura (Karaza)	—Late stone age site.



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Ranawas	—Late stone age site. Medieval period II site, Habitation, memorial stones.
Sagrosana	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Sambarada	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Sculptures.
Samdhi Nadhanivas	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Coins.
Saripada	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Sarotra	—Microlithic site, Medieval period II site, Sculptures, Habitation, Temple.
Sasam	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Tokaria	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Vagda	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Varwadia	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Vasan	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Zanzarwav	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.

A chain of microlithic sites have been discovered on the river Banas flowing in the jurisdiction of the Palanpur taluka.

Vadgam taluka :

Basu	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Memorial stones.
Bhakhari	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Ruins of temples.
Bhangrodia	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Inscription.
Bavalchudi	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.



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Changa	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Chhaniana	—Medieval period II site, Ruins of temples. Sculptures.
Dalvana	—Medieval period II site, Memorial stones,
Dharevada	—Medieval period II site.
Ghodial	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Ruins of temples, Inscription.
Juni-Sendhani	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Kodaram	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Kaleda	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Magarvada	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Mokeshwar	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Mumanvas	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Nagarpura	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Nanosana	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Panchada	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Pandava	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Parkhadi	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Ruins of temples.
Pasvadal	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Sculptures, Inscription.
Pepol	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Pilucha	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Sculptures.
Rajosana	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.

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Sabalpura	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Saklana	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Thalvada	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Memorial stones.
Thuvar	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Vansol	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Sculptures.
Varnavada	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Varvadia	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Sculptures, Memorial stones.
Vasana	—Medieval period II site, Temple, Memorial stones.
Deesa taluka :	
Baiwada	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Sculptures.
Bhachalva	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Sculptures.
Bhildi	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Sculptures.
Chekra	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Chitroda	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Chora	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Dama	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Deesa	—Late stone age site.
Gharnal Moti	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.



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DISTRICT GAZETTEER BANASKANTHA

Ghada	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Sculptures, Inscription.
Jhakol	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Sculptures.
Juna-Deesa	—Late stone age site. Early historic site. —Medieval period II site, Habitation, Sculptures.
Kampda	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Sculptures.
Kasari	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Jherda	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Sculptures.
Khentava	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Ruins of temple.
Latia	—Memorial stones. (Late Mediaeval period II)
Mudetha	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Sculptures.
Mota Kapra	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures, Inscription.
Nana Kapra	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Sculptures.
Nesda	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Ruins of temples, Sculptures.
Paldi	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Sculptures.
Pechhdal	—Medieval period II site, Inscription.

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Rampura	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Sarat	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Sotambala	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Inscription.
Thervada	—Medieval period II site, Inscription.
Vadaval	—Late stone age site.
	Medieval period I site, Sculptures.
	Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Vahara	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Vakvada	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Vithodar	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Vasana	—Late stone age site.



Danta Taluka :

Divdi	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Ganchhera	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Ruins of temples, Sculptures.
Jetvas	—Medieval period II site, Ruins of temples, Sculptures.
Jharivav	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Koteshwar	—Medieval period I site, Sculptures. —Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Kumbharia	—Medieval period II site, Temples, —Medieval period I site, Sculptures.

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DISTRICT GAZETTEER : BANASKANTHA

Kankrej Taluka :

Tervada	—Medieval period II site, Habitation site, Sculptures.
Kakar	—Medieval period II site, Habitation site, Ruins of temples, Coins.
Dungrasan	—Medieval period II site, Ruins of temple.
Kesarpura	—Temple-Medieval period II site.

Dhanera Taluka :

Asia	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Dhanera	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Khimat	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Rampura	—Medieval period II site. Ruins of temples.

Vav Taluka :

Asaravas	—Medieval period II site, Bronzes, Memorial stones.
Benap	—Early Historic period site, Habitation. —Medieval period II site, Ruins of temple.
Bhatvar	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Jelana	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Khardol	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Nesada	—Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Padan	—Medieval period II site, Temple, Sculptures.
Vav	—Medieval period II site, Habitation, Sculptures.

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Santalpur Taluka :

Anguria	—Late stone age tools.
Bakutra II	—Medieval period II site.
Bakutra I	—Medieval period II site.
Barara	—Late stone age tools.
Chandal-no-Ghod	—Medieval period II site.
Datrana	—Medieval period II site.
Korda	—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.
Santalpur	—Late stone age tools.
Sinada	—Medieval period II site.
Zekada	—Harappan, late Harappan and post Harappan, Chalcolithic cultures.
Datrana	—Medieval Period II site.
Manthar	—Early historic period.
Thesaria	—Late stone age tools.
Vallara	—Late stone age tools.
Varahi	—Medieval period II site.
Ratan Tekri	—Late stone age tools.

Radhanpur Taluka :

Zalor-no-Ghod	—Medieval period I site, Sculptures. —Medieval period II site, Habitation.
Dehgam	—Medieval period I site, Sculptures.
Mahadeva-no-Timbo	—Late stone age tools.



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DISTRICT GAZETTEER : BANASKANTHA

Radhanpur

—Medieval period II site, Bronzes,
Sculptures.

Arjansa-no-Ghod

—Medieval period II site, Habitation.

Deodar taluka :

Vadana

—Medieval period II site, Sculptures.

Tharad taluka :

Bhoral

—Chalcolithic site, Habitation.
—Early Historic site, Habitation.
—Medieval period II site, Sculptures,
Bronzes.

Tharad

—Early historic site, Habitation.
—Medieval period I site, Sculptures.
—Medieval period II site, Habitation,
Sculptures, Bronzes.



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GLOSSARY

A

<i>Acharya</i>	..	..	A religious head, a preceptor
<i>Adhikari</i>	..	..	An Officer
<i>Adhikarnik</i>	..	..	A learned officer, who administered justice during the Maitraka period
<i>Adivasi</i>	..	..	An aboriginal; a tribal; original settler in forest area
<i>Agarbatti</i>	..	..	An incensed stick usually lighted near a deity or God
<i>Akhada</i>	..	..	Gymnasium
<i>Ambli-Pipli</i>	..	..	An Indian game for children
<i>Ankada</i>	..	..	A number or a figure
<i>Ankadia</i>	..	..	A type of revenue system
<i>Anna</i>	..	..	A unit of British currency used as legal tender in India
<i>Anu</i>	..	..	Gifts given to a daughter when she goes to her husband's house
<i>Ashram Shala</i>	..	..	A residential school for the tribal children.
<i>Attar</i>	..	..	Perfume

B

<i>Badha</i>	..	..	A vow
<i>Badshahi</i>	..	..	A Royal status
<i>Bajri</i>	..	..	Indian millet; name of a cereal (<i>Panicellaria spicatta</i>)
<i>Balanaka</i>	..	..	A raised platform
<i>Balwadi</i>	..	..	A pre-primary school or a school for children below five years, which combines learning and recreation

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DISTRICT GAZETTEER : BANASKANTHA

<i>Balmandir/Shishu Vihar</i>	..	..	A pre-primary school for children below five years
<i>Bedu</i>	..	..	A large brass pot with a narrow mouth
<i>Beedi</i>	..	..	An indigenous cigarette made from Timru leaf and tobacco
<i>Bhagbatai</i>	..	..	Crop share
<i>Bhajan</i>	..	..	Devotional song
<i>Bhajan Mandali</i>	..	..	A group or association of devotees who sing devotional songs
<i>Bhandar</i>	..	..	A store house; a library under religious institutions where religious books, manuscripts, etc., are preserved
<i>Bhasma</i>	..	..	Ashes
<i>Bhayat</i>	..	..	A cadet of the ruling family
<i>Bhoodan</i>	..	..	Voluntary gift of land
<i>Bigha</i>	..	..	A unit for measuring land, a square measure equal to about one-third of an acre
<i>Bighoti</i>	..	..	Cash assessment
<i>Chakariat</i>	..	..	Land assigned for remuneration of village or Darbar service
<i>Chaniyo</i>	..	..	A petticoat
<i>Chauth</i>	..	..	One fourth of the village revenue recovered under the Maratha rule
<i>Chela</i>	..	..	A disciple
<i>Chhint</i>	..	..	Printed cloth
<i>Chudo</i>	..	..	An auspicious ivory bangle worn by a Hindu married woman, whose husband is alive

D

<i>Darbargadh</i>	..	..	Residence or a ruler of a royal palace
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GLOSSARY

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<i>Dandiya-ras</i> ..	.. Circular folk-dance with sticks played by men and women
<i>Dargah</i> ..	.. A tomb of a Muslim saint
<i>Darshan</i> ..	.. A sight or glimpse of a deity
<i>Devakulika</i> ..	.. A collonaded group of minor shrines
<i>Dewan</i> ..	.. Minister
<i>Dharmada (Land)</i> ..	.. Grant of land to individual or religious institution for maintenance
<i>Dharmashala</i> ..	.. A public resting place in a town or village, or a pilgrim centre, a rest-house
<i>Dhol</i> ..	.. A drum
<i>Dhoti</i> ..	.. A white garment worn round the waist by men
<i>Diya</i> ..	.. A lamp
<i>Diyarvatu</i> ..	.. Levirate
F	
<i>Fatiha</i> ..	.. Opening chapter of the Koran
<i>Fenta</i> ..	.. A long strip of cloth tied round the head as a turban; a small turban
G	
<i>Gadi</i> ..	.. A hereditary royal seat
<i>Gaj</i> ..	.. A measure of two feet
<i>Garbha griha</i> ..	.. The place where deity is installed; the Shrine
<i>Gau</i> ..	.. A distance of two miles
<i>Gaushala</i> ..	.. A cow-shed
<i>Gazal</i> ..	.. A type of poetic composition derived from Persian style
<i>Ghaghra</i> ..	.. Petticoat
<i>Gharkhed</i> ..	.. Land under personal cultivation of land-holder



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DISTRICT GAZETTEER : BANASKANTHA

<i>Ghee</i>	..	..	Clarified butter
<i>Giras</i>	..	..	Land given to cadets or junior members of a chieftain's family and their descendants for maintenance
<i>Gotraj</i>	..	..	The family deity
<i>Gram Panchayat</i>	..	..	A village council
<i>Gudha mandapa</i>	..	..	A hall in front of a sanctum
<i>Gur</i>	..	..	Jaggery
<i>Guru</i>	..	..	A preceptor

H

<i>Hartal</i>	..	..	A strike
<i>Hath</i>	..	..	A cubit; ancient measure of length, 18 to 21 inches
<i>Havaladar</i>	..	..	A village watchman
<i>Hundi</i>	..	..	Bill of exchange drawn on a person or banker
<i>Hu-tu-tu</i>	..	..	The name of an Indian team game

सत्यमेव जयते

<i>Inam</i>	..	..	A kind of land tenure
<i>Isabgul</i>	..	..	Spogel seed, seeds of a plant, <i>plantago ispaghula</i>

J

<i>Jabbho</i>	..	..	A loose long coat used as upper garment by men
<i>Jagir</i>	..	..	Land granted to Jagirdars by chiefs for rendering some special service
<i>Jagirdar</i>	..	..	One who holds land / or land revenue in jagir
<i>Jan</i>	..	..	Bridegroom's party
<i>Jamadar</i>	..	..	A Police constable

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<i>Jamindar</i>	..	..	Land-holder
<i>Jeera</i>	..	..	Cumin seed; <i>cuminum cyminum</i>
<i>Jillah</i>	..	..	District or Province
<i>Jiwai</i>	..	..	Land given rent-free for maintenance or in lieu of service rendered to the ruler
<i>Jowar</i>	..	..	Name of a cereal, (<i>Sorghum vulgare</i>) coarse variety of crop
<i>Judi</i>	..	..	Quit-rent

K

<i>Kalsi</i>	..	..	A measure equal to 16 local maunds
<i>Kanyadan</i>	..	..	Giving of a daughter in marriage to the bridegroom.
<i>Kanya chhatralaya</i>	..	..	A girl's (students) hostel
<i>Karkun</i>	..	..	A clerk
<i>Katchi Kori</i>	..	..	A unit of currency used in Kachchh (Kutch State) before integration into Indian Union
<i>Kesar</i>	..	..	Saffron
<i>Khadi</i>	..	..	Indian homespun cloth
<i>Khalsa land</i>	..	..	Agricultural land held directly from the State.
<i>Khalwad</i>	..	..	Grainyard
<i>Khamis</i>	..	..	A shirt
<i>Khari</i>	..	..	Salty biscuits prepared from <i>atta</i> and fried in oil / ghee
<i>Kharif</i>	..	..	The monsoon crop; crop sown in the rainy season and reaped in autumn
<i>Khatla</i>	..	..	A bedstead; a cot
<i>Kho-kho</i>	..	..	A game of getting up from a sedentary posture and catching persons from opposite party



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DISTRICT GAZETTEER : BANASKANTHA

<i>Kirtan</i>	..	..	A programme of devotional songs in praise of god
<i>Kodia</i>	..	..	An earthen cup shaped lamp holding oil and a wick
<i>Kothi</i>	..	..	A large earthen jar
<i>Kuldar</i>	..	..	A unit of currency
<i>Kumar Chhatralaya</i>	..	..	A boys (students) hostel
<i>Kuka</i>	..	..	Rounded pieces of stone used in play by girls
<i>Kumkum</i>	..	..	Red turmeric powder
<i>Kund</i>	..	..	Reservoir

<i>Lajjahoma</i>	..	..	This is one of the most important rituals of the Hindu marriage ceremony wherein the scattering of fried rice of grain denotes a symbol of fruitfulness and prosperity; while the wife scatters grain, she prays for her husband's long life
<i>Ling</i>	..	..	Emblem of Lord Shiva; Phallic image of the Lord

M

<i>Madresa</i>	..	..	Urdu Primary School
<i>Mahajan</i>	..	..	Guild
<i>Mahal</i>	..	..	A sub-division of a district lower than a taluka
<i>Maharana</i>	..	..	Prince, a ruler installed on a throne
<i>Malmal</i>	..	..	Muslin
<i>Mamlatdar</i>	..	..	A Revenue Officer in charge of a taluka
<i>Mandap</i>	..	..	A booth set-up during marriage
<i>Manta</i>	..	..	A vow

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<i>Manva</i>	..	..	A measure of weight generally 40 local seers
<i>Math</i>	..	..	Monastery
<i>Matruka</i>	..	..	Mother goddess worshipped by the Hindus
<i>Mug</i>	..	..	Name of a pulse; <i>phaseolus mungo</i>
<i>Munsiff</i>	..	..	A subordinate Judge

N

<i>Nari</i>	..	..	Pirn. a term used in weaving industry
<i>Nata mandap</i>	..	..	A hall where drama is performed or a stage
<i>Natra</i>	..	..	Widow remarriage
<i>Nawab</i>	..	..	Muslim ruler
<i>Nayab Subah</i>	..	..	An Assistant Governor or Revenue Commissioner of a province
<i>Nazarana</i>	..	..	A present, gift
<i>Nikah</i>	..	..	A marriage ceremony for Muslims propounded by Koran

O

<i>Odhani</i>	..	..	An upper garment worn by girls
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P

<i>Pada</i>	..	..	A verse
<i>Pagi</i>	..	..	A watch-guard; a tracer of the foot prints of thieves and robbers
<i>Pahad</i>	..	..	A mountain
<i>Pan</i>	..	..	Betal-leaf
<i>Pandit</i>	..	..	A scholar, a learned man
<i>Panjrapole</i>	..	..	An asylum for dried up decrepit and useless animals



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DISTRICT GAZETTEER : BANASKANTHA

<i>Panihari</i>	..	A woman who fetches water from wells in pots and balances on the head
<i>Panigrahana</i>	..	Acceptance of the hand of the bride by the bridegroom in the marriage ceremony
<i>Pathshala</i>	..	Oriental School
<i>Pasaita</i>	..	Village servant useful to Government
<i>Patara</i>	..	A large wooden box used for storing valuables in villages
<i>Patel</i>	..	Village headman
<i>Pir</i>	..	A Muslim saint
<i>Ponkhavun</i>	..	To receive or welcome the bride or the bridegroom or both with the traditional ceremonies
<i>Pucca</i>	..	Metalled road or solidly built
<i>Puja</i>	..	Worship
<i>Pujari</i>	..	A person in charge of a temple for the performance of rituals
<i>Puranas</i>	..	Sacred poetical works containing legendary accounts of persons and events of old times, the name of certain class of sacred works ascribed to Vyasa, and containing the whole body of Hindu mythology including the details about Hindu Gods and Goddesses
<i>Puranik</i>	..	Well versed in Puranas

R

<i>Raido</i>	..	Mustard
<i>Rann</i>	..	Desert
<i>Ras-Garba</i>	..	A kind of folk dance performed by men and women during Navratri festival
<i>Ras-mandali</i>	..	A band of persons playing the sportive dance

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S

<i>Sabha Mandapa</i>	..	An open hall of the temple or a meeting hall, or the assembly hall in front of a temple
<i>Sahakar</i>	..	Co-operation
<i>Samadhi</i>	..	Self-immolation; a memorial raised to honour a particular saint, meditation
<i>Samvat</i>	..	An era
<i>Santa-Kukadi</i>	..	The name of an Indian game of hide and seek.
<i>Sanyasta</i>	..	Asceticism, renunciation of the world
<i>Sapta-matrukas</i>	..	Seven Goddesses
<i>Saptapadi</i>	..	Seven steps taken together by a bride and bridegroom round the sacrificial fire during the marriage ceremony which makes the Hindu marriage complete and irrevocable
<i>Sarais</i>	..	A public resting place for Muslims in a village, town or pilgrim centre
<i>Saree</i>	..	Hindu woman's chief garment draped round the body
<i>Sarpanch</i>	..	The head of a village panchayat
<i>Sarvajanik Pustakalaya</i>	..	Public library
<i>Sarsav</i>	..	Rape-seed; a species of mustard; <i>Brassica campestris</i>
<i>Satyagraha</i>	..	Non-violence Movement
<i>Savar</i>	..	A rider; a cavalier
<i>Seer</i>	..	A unit of weight equal to 40 <i>tolas</i>
<i>Shahukar</i>	..	A money-lender
<i>Shastra</i>	..	The Hindu scripture or a sacred book
<i>Sheth</i>	..	A respectful term applied to a merchant or gentleman



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<i>Shikar</i>	..	.. Hunting
<i>Shikai</i>	..	.. Currency introduced by the Mohammedan ruler
<i>Shraddha</i>	..	.. A ceremony performed for the salvation or propitiation of the departed soul
<i>Simanta</i>	..	.. The first pregnancy; the ceremony performed in the seventh month of the first pregnancy
<i>Sirbandi</i>	..	.. A subsidiary or an irregular force
<i>Sower</i>	..	.. A mounted policeman
<i>Stree Adhyapan Mandir</i>	..	.. A women's training college for primary teachers
<i>Subah</i>	..	.. Governor of a province under the Muslim rule
<i>Sultan</i>	..	.. A Muslim monarch, a King
<i>Talao</i>	..	.. Tank or pond
<i>Talati</i>	..	.. Village Accountant
<i>Tasu</i>	..	.. A measure of length, 24th, part of a Gaj or an inch
<i>Thal</i>	..	.. A large plate
<i>Thali</i>	..	.. A metal plate generally used for eating
<i>Tola</i>	..	.. A unit of weight, the fortieth part of a <i>seer</i> .
<i>Thana</i>	..	.. A police station, sub-division of a district under a civil authority, or a check-post
<i>Thandar</i>	..	.. An Officer in-charge of a Police Station.
<i>Tirthankar</i>	..	.. One of the 24 incarnations of God worshipped by the Jains
<i>Trambakundi</i>	..	.. A water trough made of copper

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U

<i>Udhad</i>	..	..	A lump sum
<i>Udid</i>	..	..	Kind of a pulse, <i>phaseolus rodatus</i>
<i>Urs</i>	..	..	A fair held on the death anniversary of a Muslim saint at his shrine

V

<i>Vahivat</i>	..	..	Administration or management
<i>Vahivatdar</i>	..	..	An Administrator or a Mamlatdar, Revenue Officer in charge of a taluka in former princely States
<i>Vaje</i>	..	..	Crop-share
<i>Vania Mahajan</i>	..	..	The guild of Bania caste
<i>Var</i>	..	..	Yard
<i>Variali</i>	..	..	Fennel seed
<i>Veda</i>	..	..	Ancient Hindu scriptures written in old form of Sanskrit and ascribed to God
<i>Vera</i>	..	..	Taxes
<i>Vina</i>	..	..	The famous Indian musical instrument connected with Saraswati, the Goddess of learning, or a musical instrument with strings
<i>Vivaha homa</i> ..	..	..	Marriage sacrifice
<i>Vyayam Shala</i> ..	..	..	A gymnasium

W

<i>Wazir</i>	..	..	Adviser to the King
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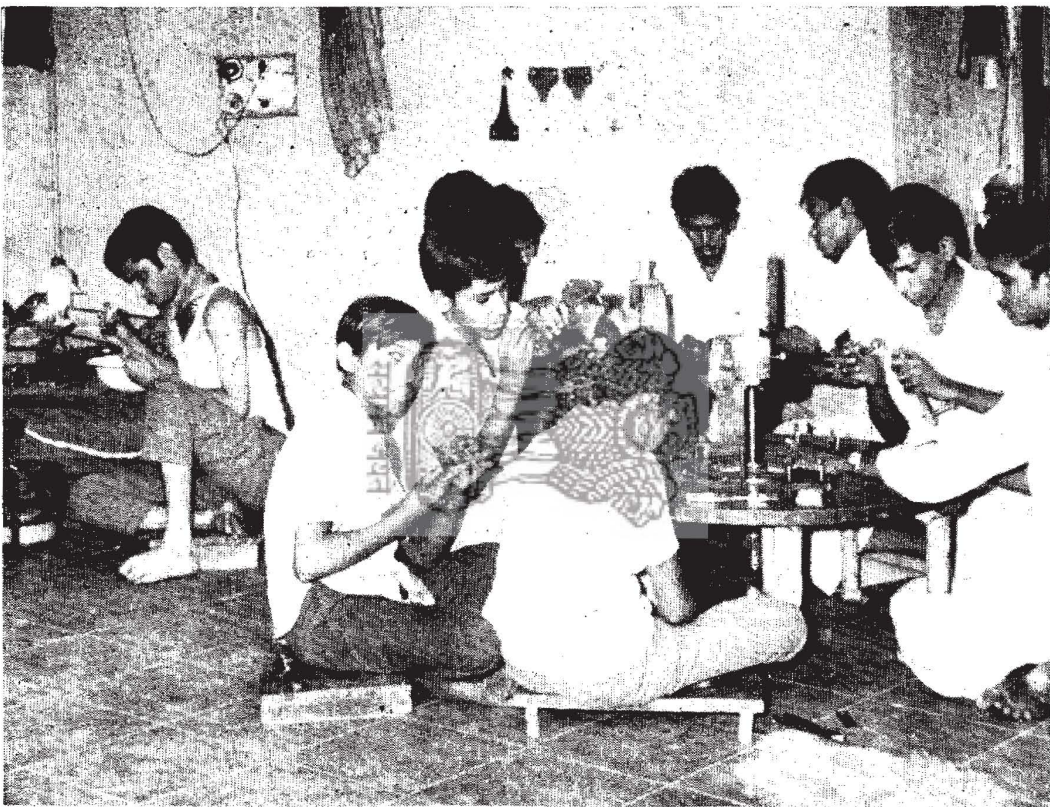
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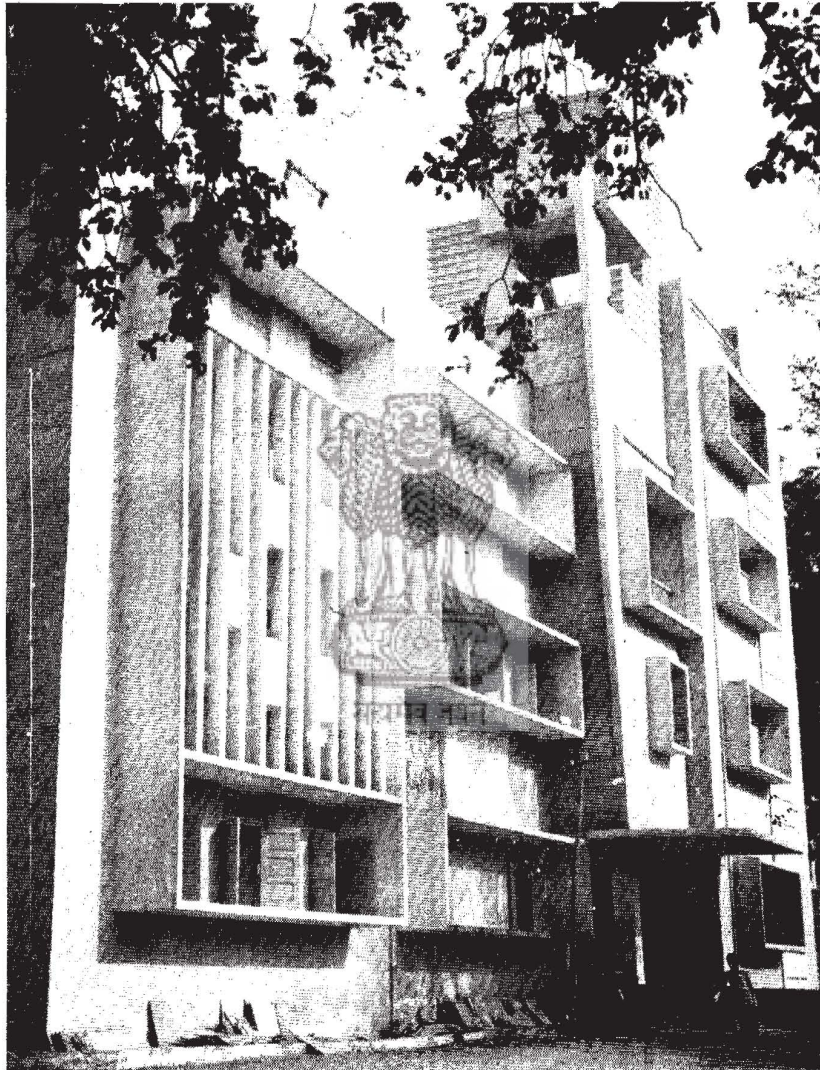
2. Diamond Cutting Industry, Palanpur





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3. Multi-purpose School, Palanpur.

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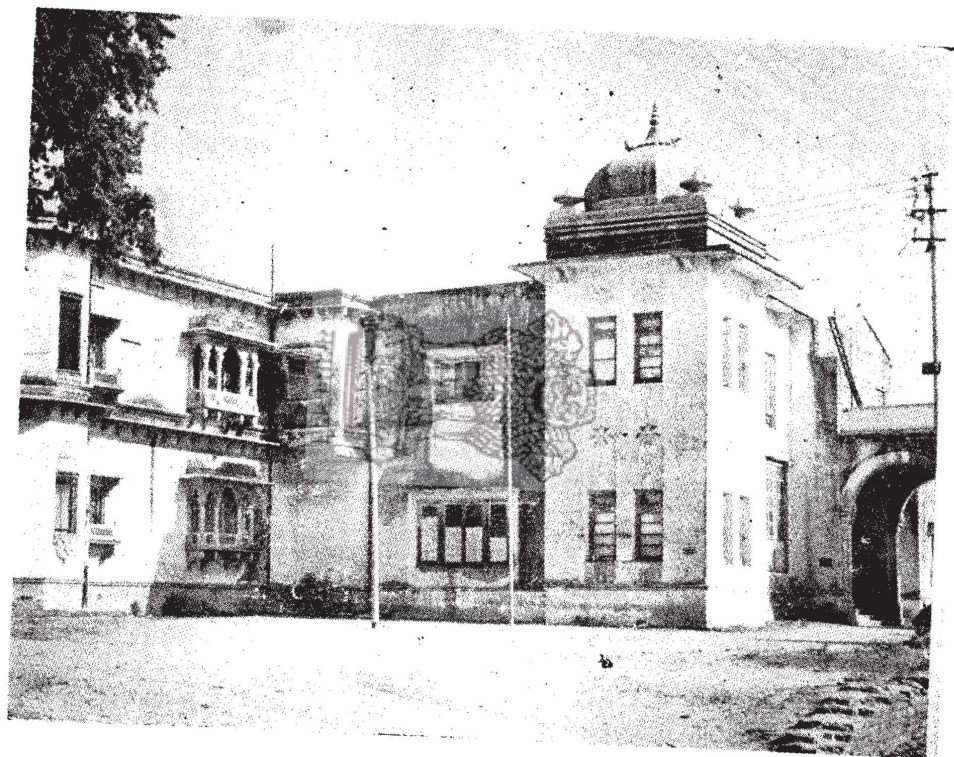
4. Wood carving at Palanpur.

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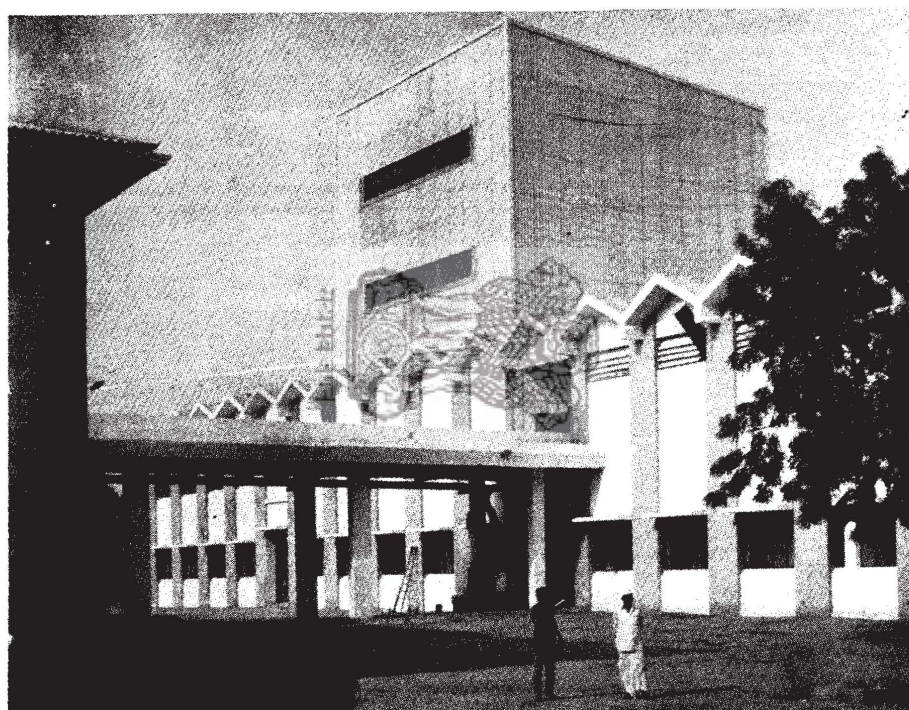


5. Banaskantha Arts and Science College, Palanpur.



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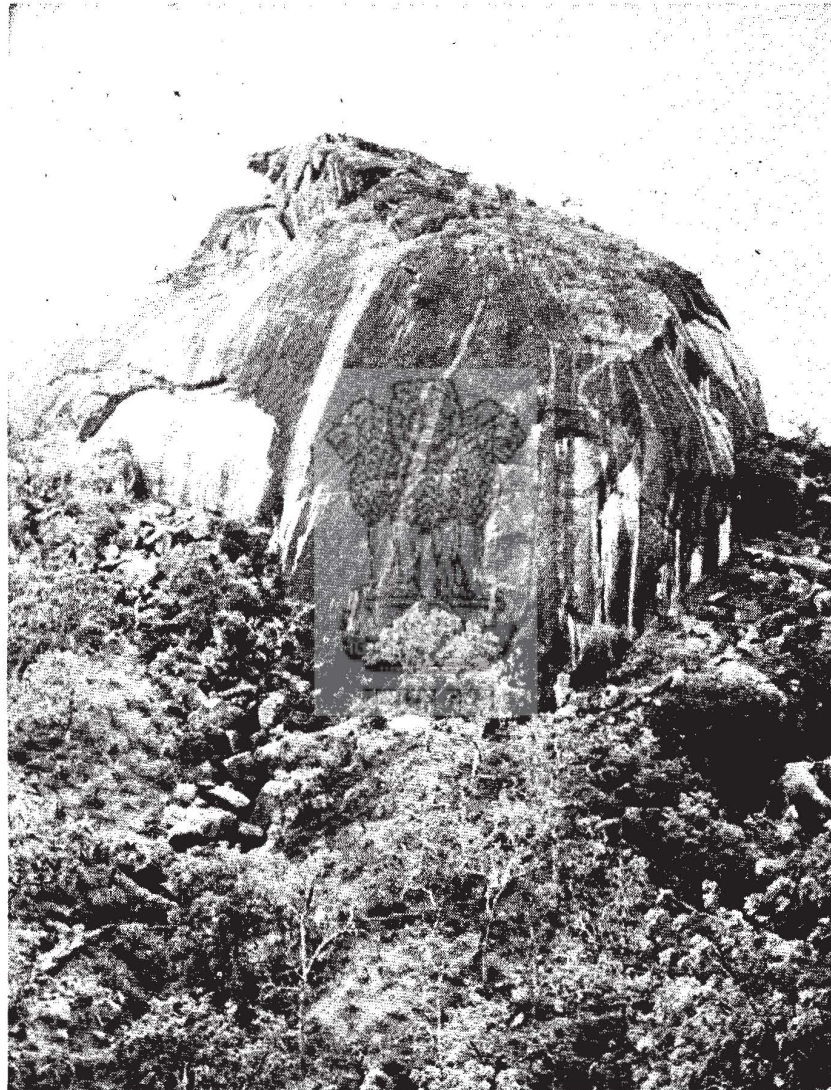


6. Banas Milk Dairy, Palanpur.



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7. Holy *Gabbar* near Ambaji, Danta taluka.

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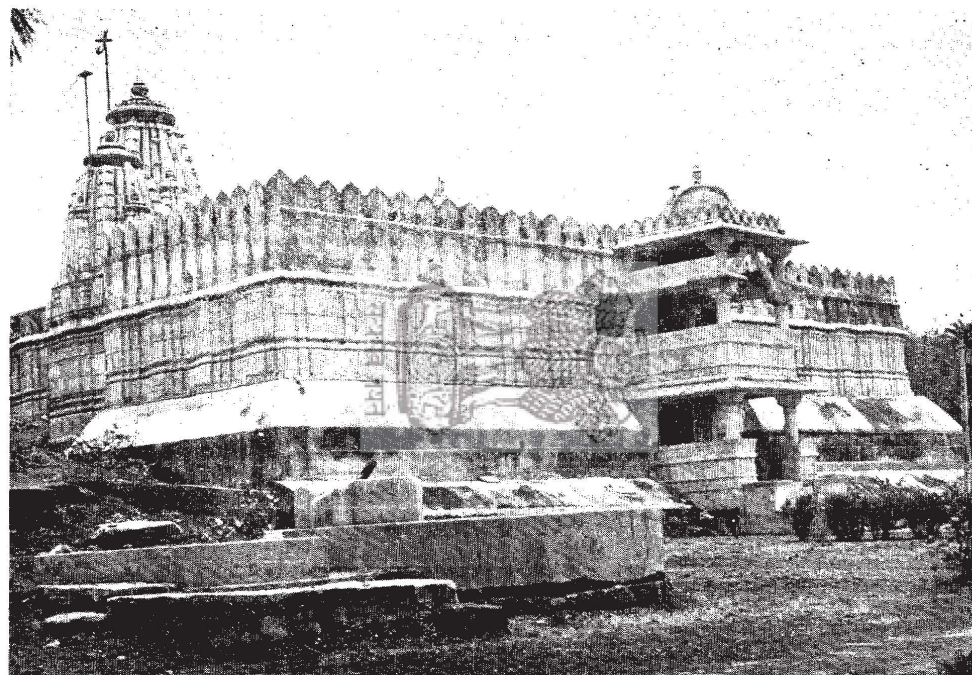


8. Marble Mine near Ambaji, Danta taluka.



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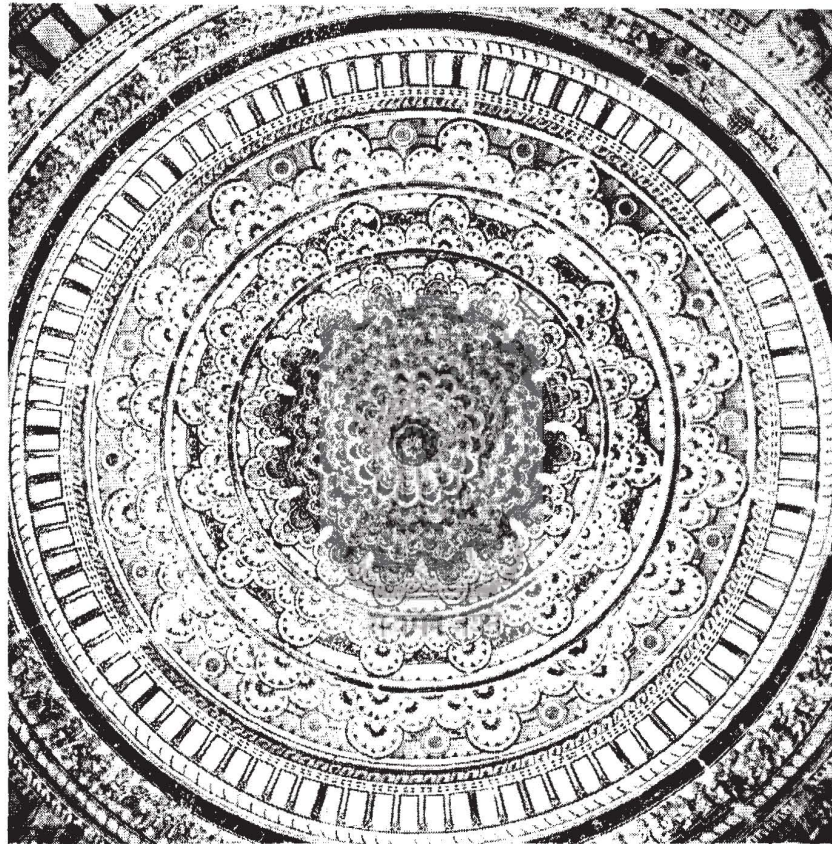


9. Jain temples at Kumbharia.



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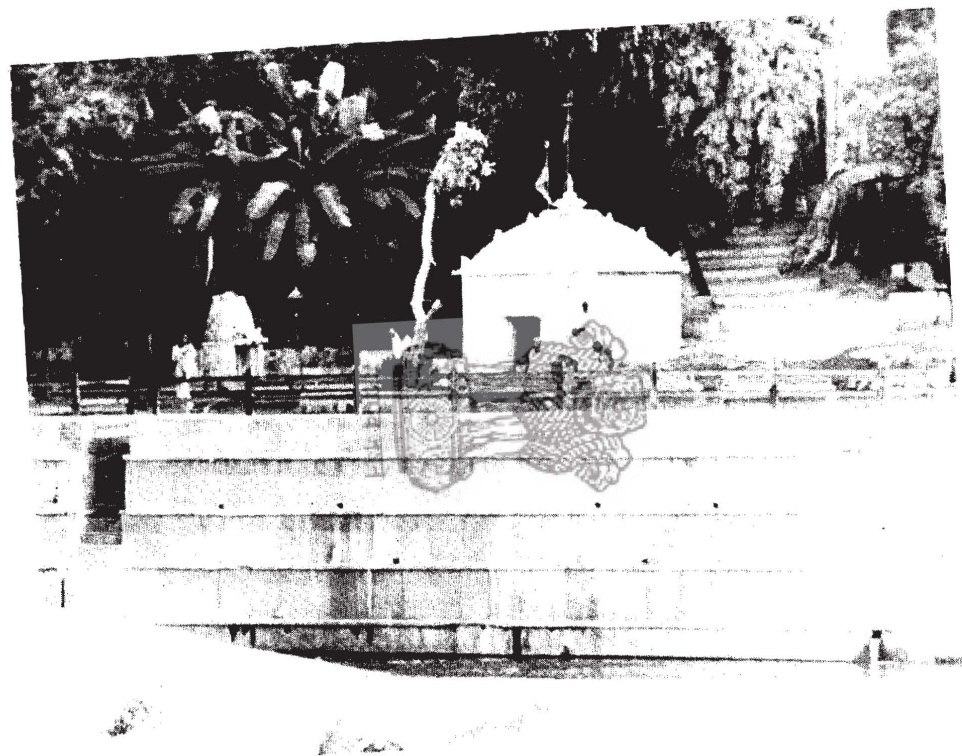
10. A beautiful carved ceiling, in the Jain Temple
at Kumbharia.

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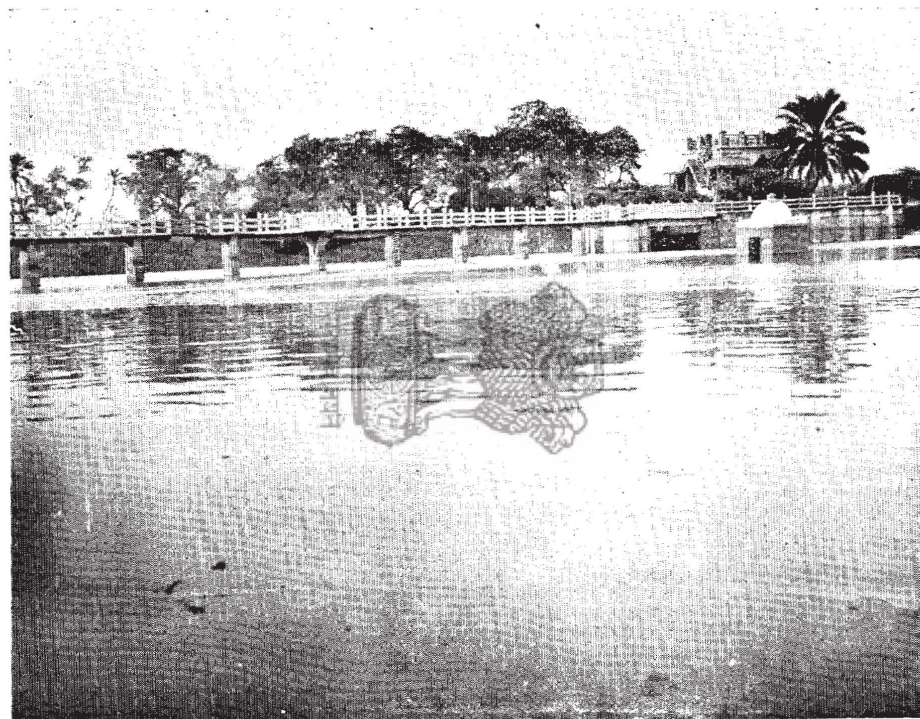


11. A Temple dedicated to Mahadev near Balaram.



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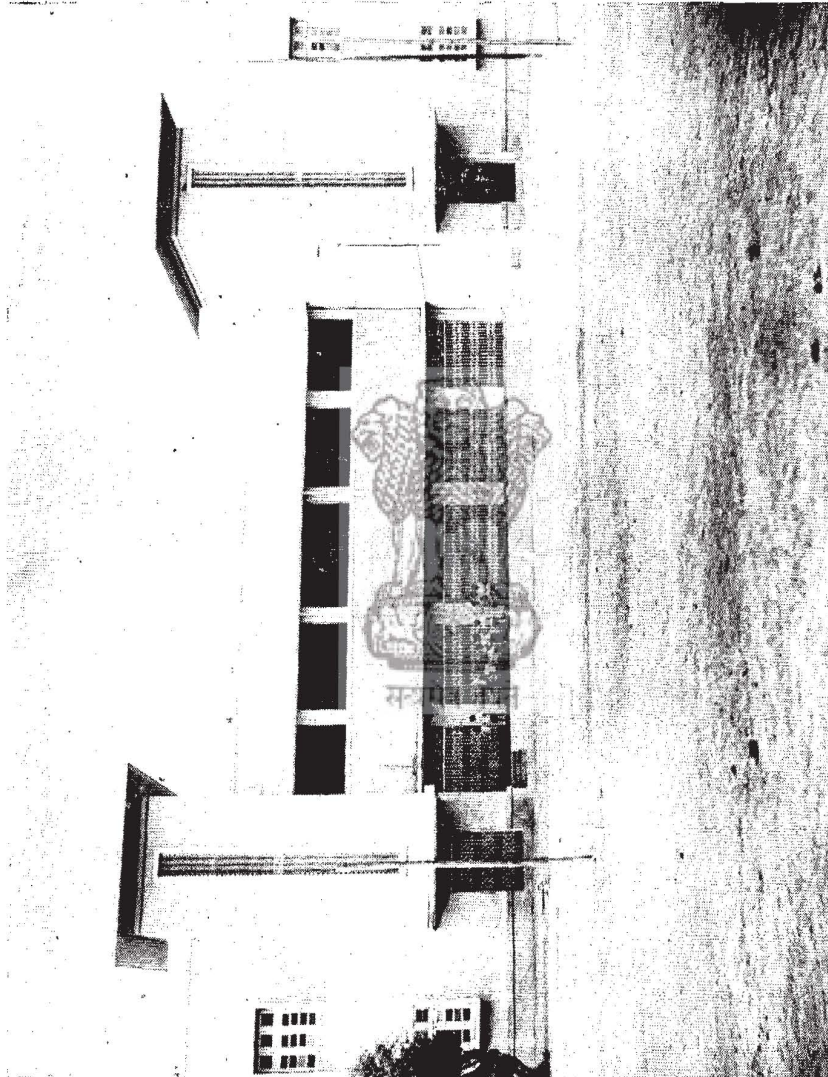


12. Lake at Radhanpur.



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13. Multi-purpose School, Radhanpur.

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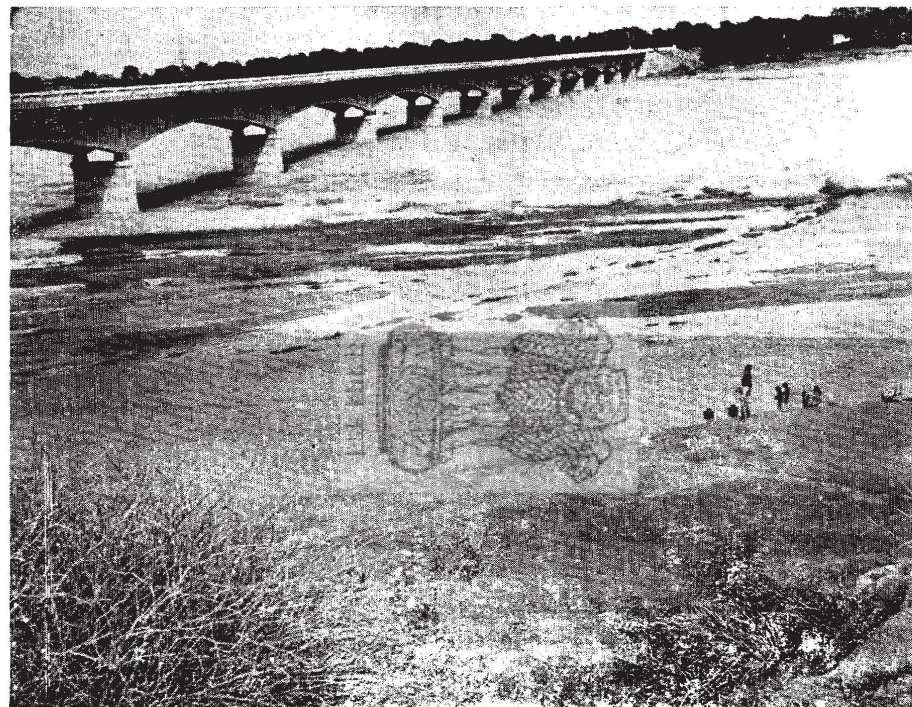


14. Arts and Commerce College, Deesa.



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15. Basin of the river Banas near Deesa.



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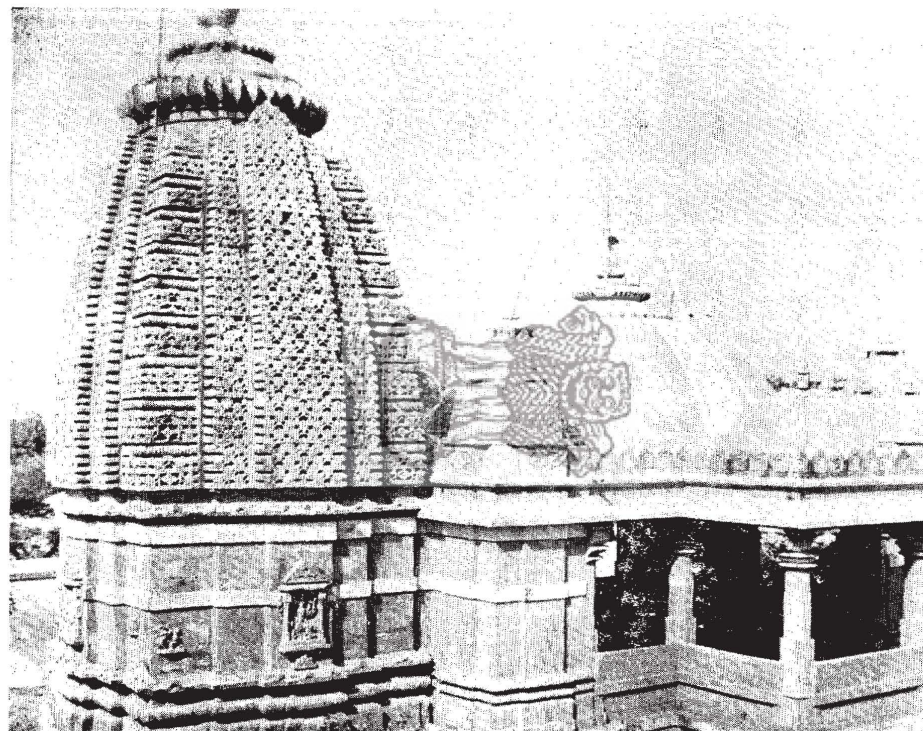
16. Kankrej Bull from Cattle Breeding Centre, Thara.

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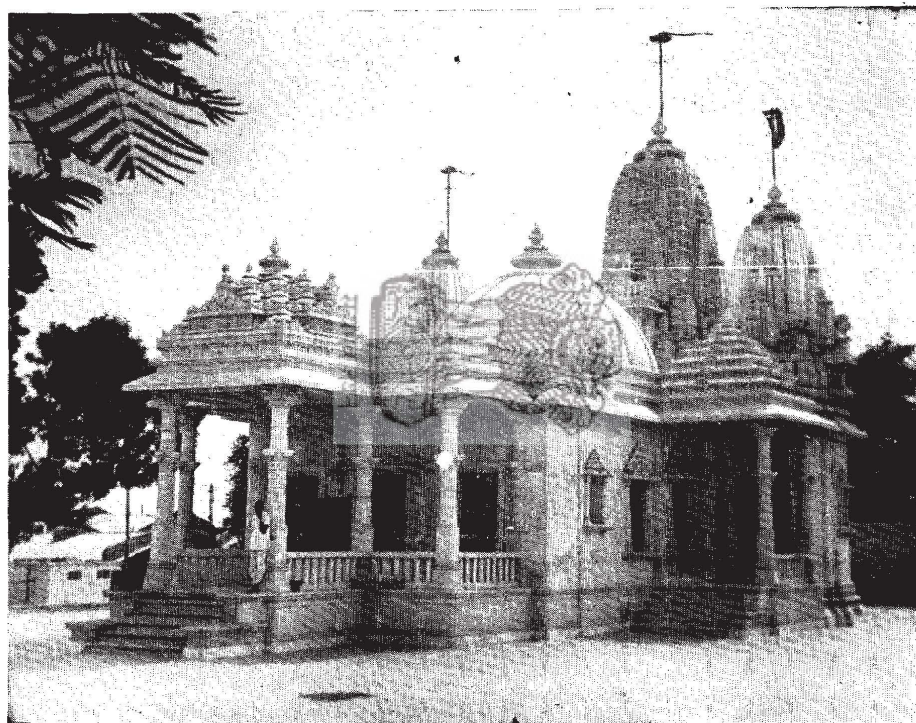


17. Muleshwar Temple, Padan, Vav taluka.



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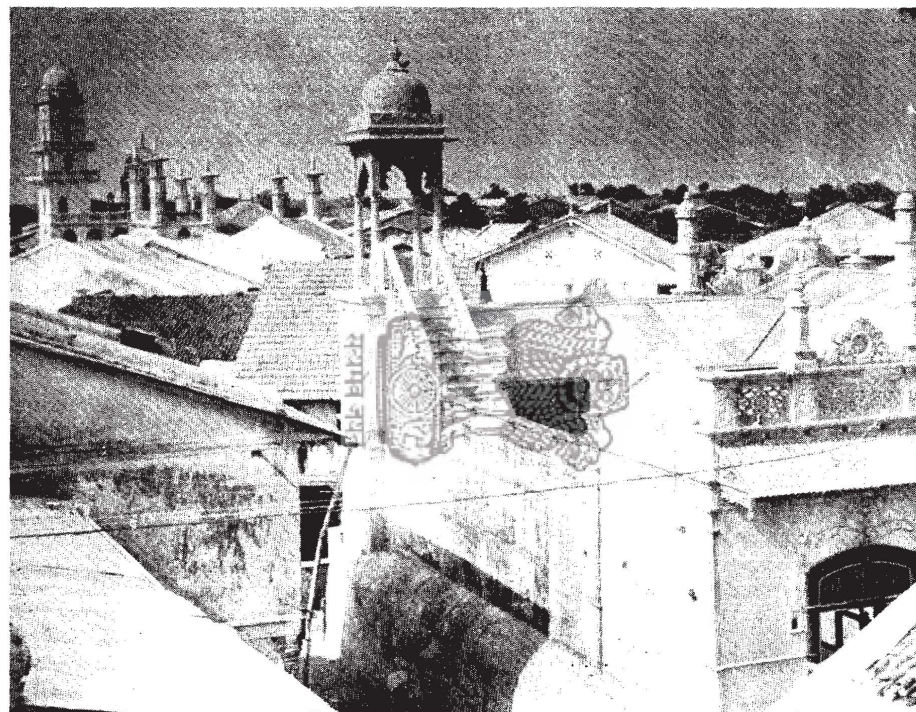


18. Jain Temple at Bhildi, Deesa taluka



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19. Mosque at Kanodar, Palanpur taluka



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21. Adivasi Dance, Sanali, Danta taluka

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22. Adivasi family, Sanali, Danta taluka

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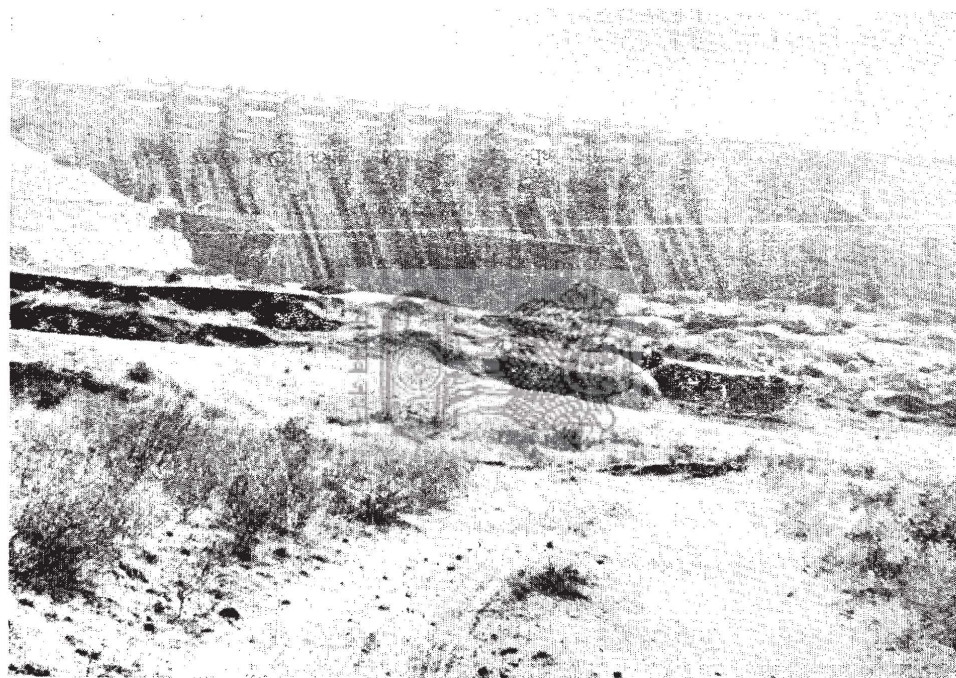
23. Cattle fair at Bhabhar, Deodar taluka

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24. Dam across the river Banas near Dantivada



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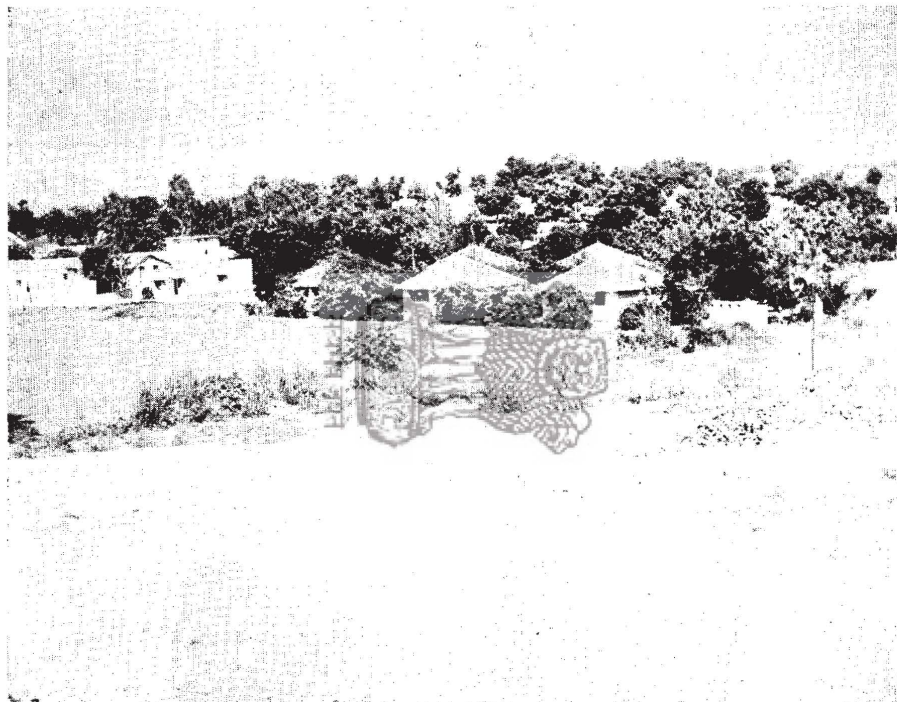


25. Ruins of temple at Tarsanga



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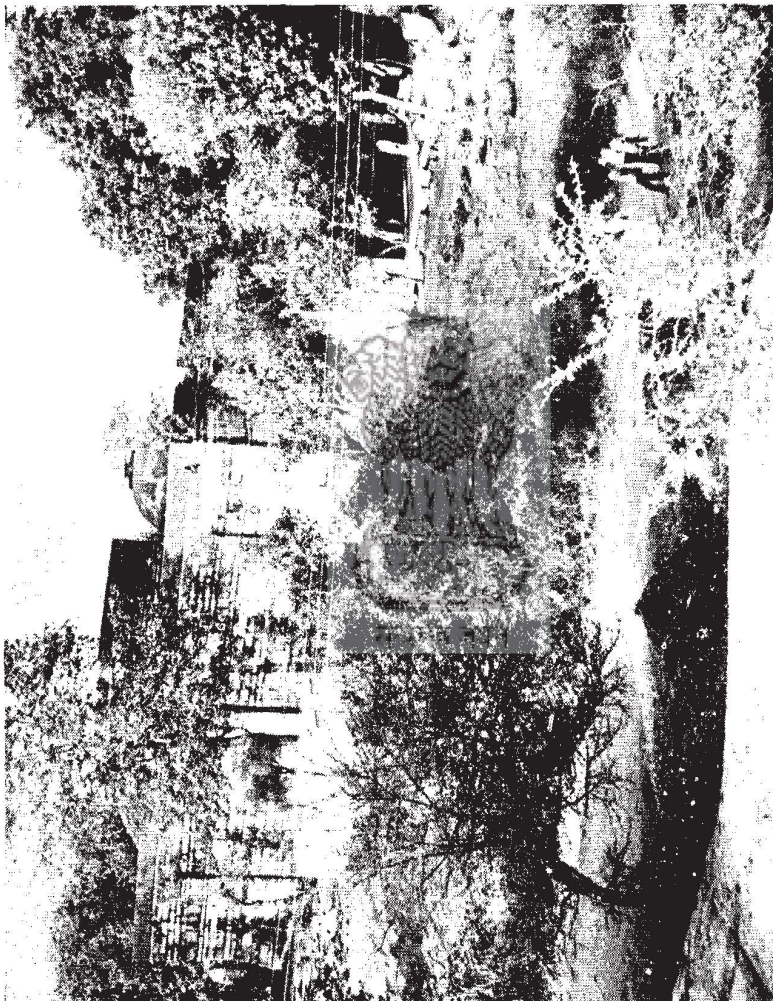


26. Lokniketan at Ratanpur



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27. Old mosque at Malan

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28. Saraswati river basin near Bhankhari

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29. Adivasi girls

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30. Heavily decked Rabari woman

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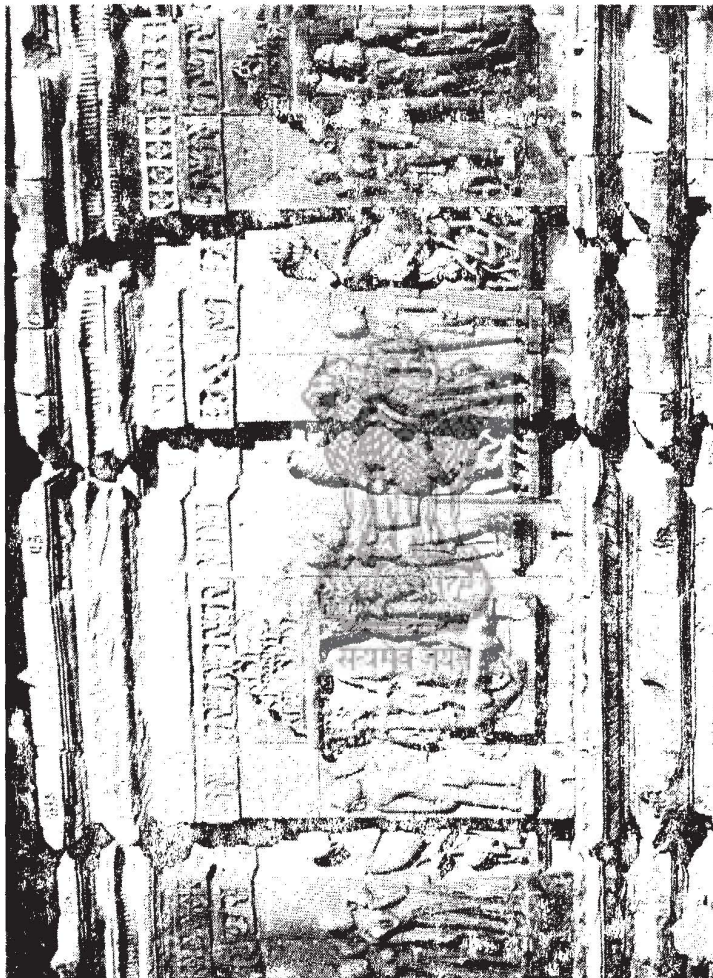
31. Kapileshwar temple, Vav.

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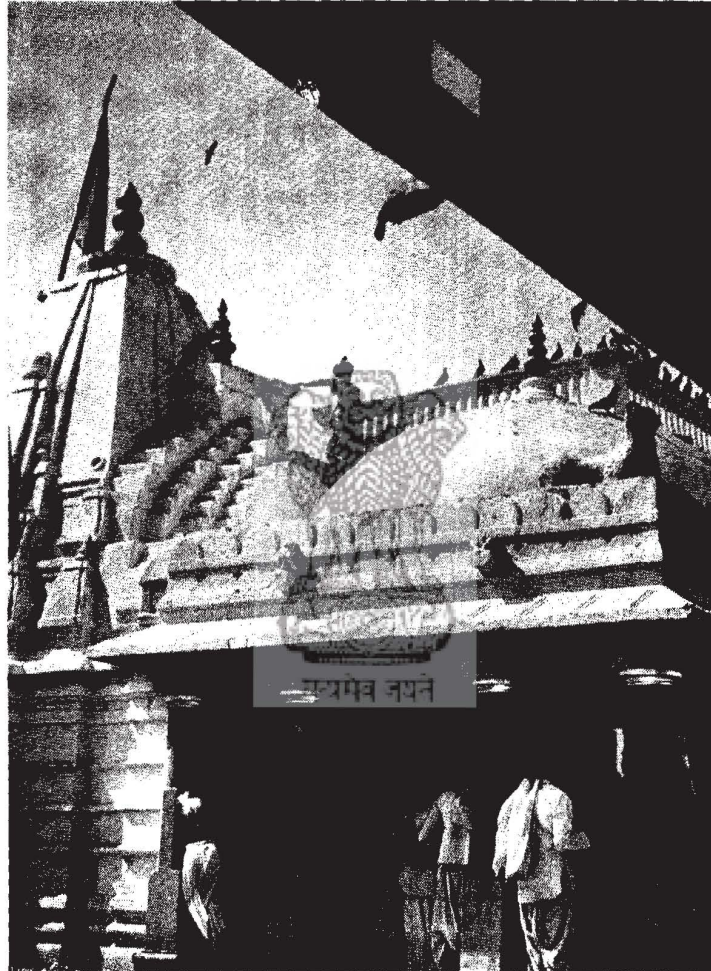
32. Stone carving of Kapileshwar temple, Vav.

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33, Temple of Dharnidhar, Dhima.

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34. Riuns of Sun temple, Goguwada.



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35. Sakti Ganesh, from Kumbharia, schist, C. 6th Century A.D.

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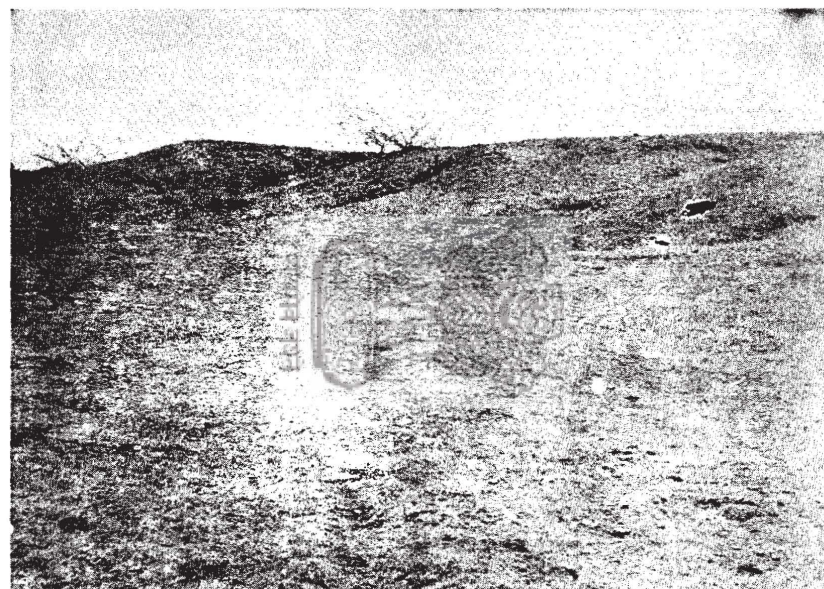


36. Ganas, Koteswar, 6th Century A. D.



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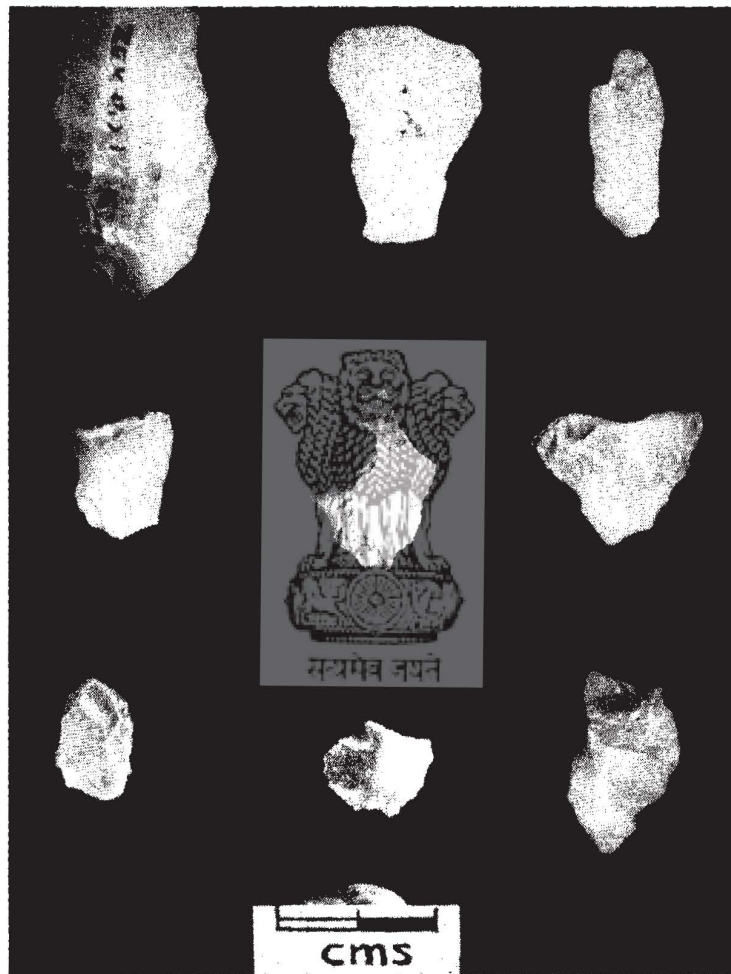


37. *Amasari-no-Tekro*. Zekada. Santalpur taluka



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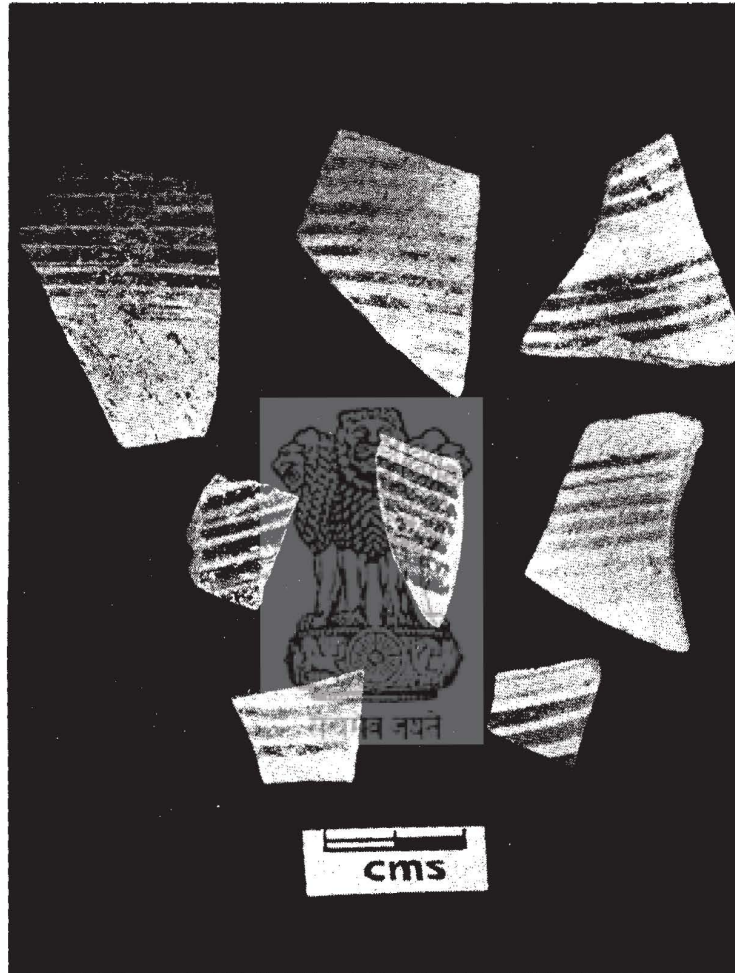
38. Late Stone-Age Tools, Zekada

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39. Harappan Pottery (Reserved Slip Ware) discovered from Zekada.

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40. Inscribed image of Parsvanatha in silver from Tharad,
C. 1164 A. D. (Vikram Samvat 1220)

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41. Inscription on the back of the image of Parsvanatha in silver

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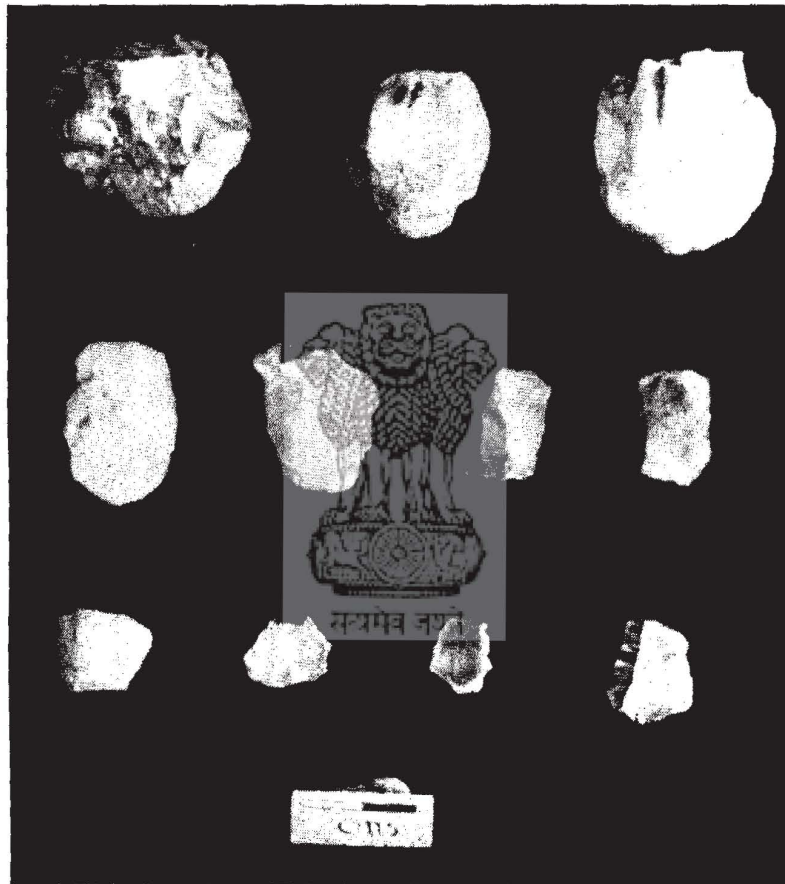
42. Scraper on case, Middle Stone-age, Banas Valley.

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43. Late Stone-Age tools, found near the rock shelter, Amirgadh.

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44. Harappan Pottery discovered from Zekada.



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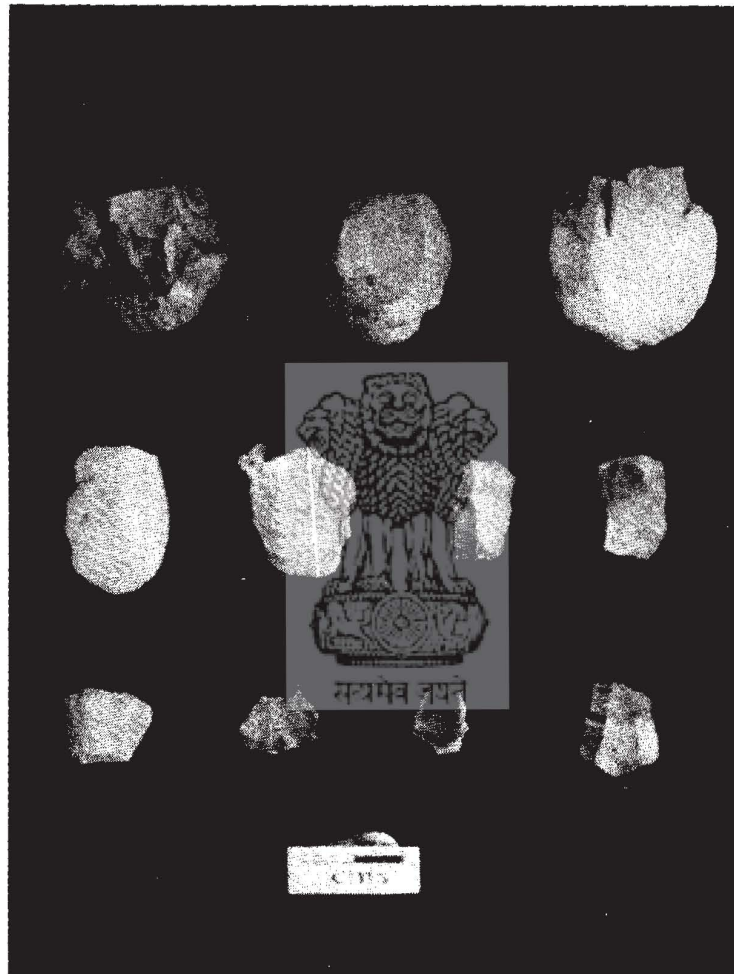


45. Bronze lotus representing Tirthankaras. Tharad. C. 16th Century A.D.



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46. Late Stone---Age tools, Banas Valley.

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47. Harappan Pottery, Zekada (Taluka Santalpur)

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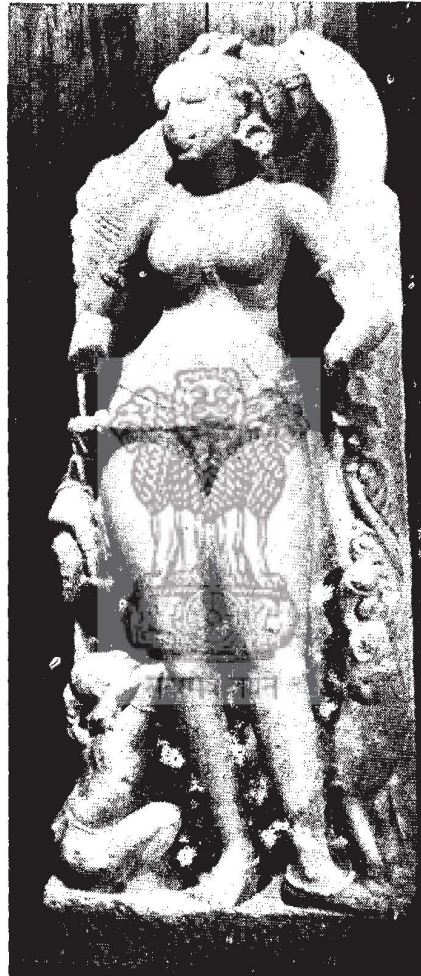
48. Matrika Brahmani, in marble,
Vadaval, C. late 7th Century
A.D. or early 8th Century A.D.

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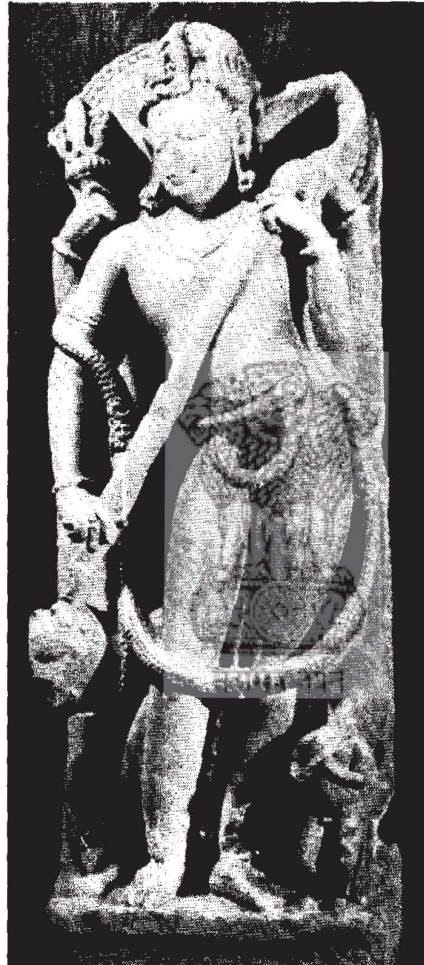
49. Matrika Maheshwari in marble, Vadaval, C. late 7th Century A. D. or early 8th Century A. D.

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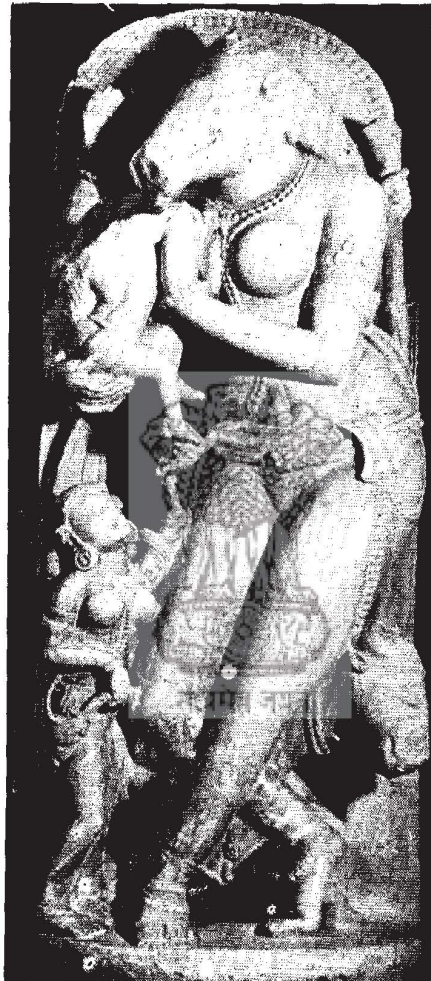
50. Vinapani Siva in marble,
Vadaval, C. late 7th Century
A.D. or early 8th Century A.D.

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51. Matrika Varahi in marble,
Vadaval, C. late 7th Century
A.D. or early 8th Century A.D.

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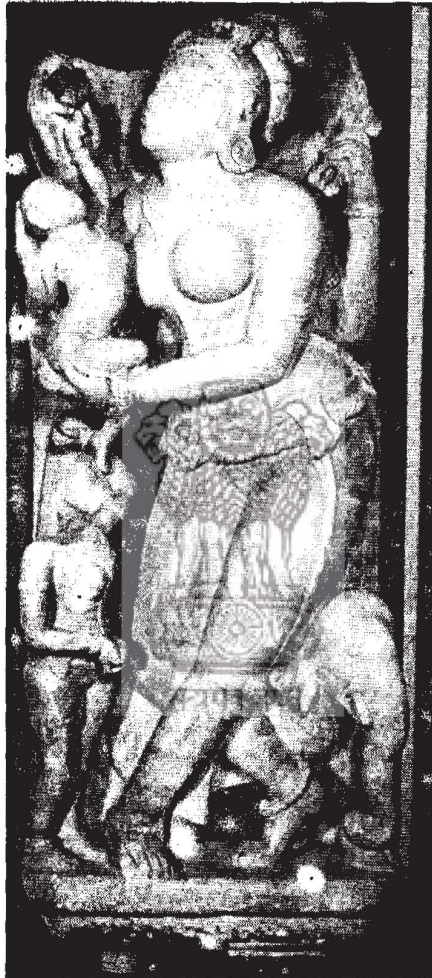
52. Matrika Kaumari in marble,
Vadaval, C. late 7th Century
A.D. or early 8th Century A.D.

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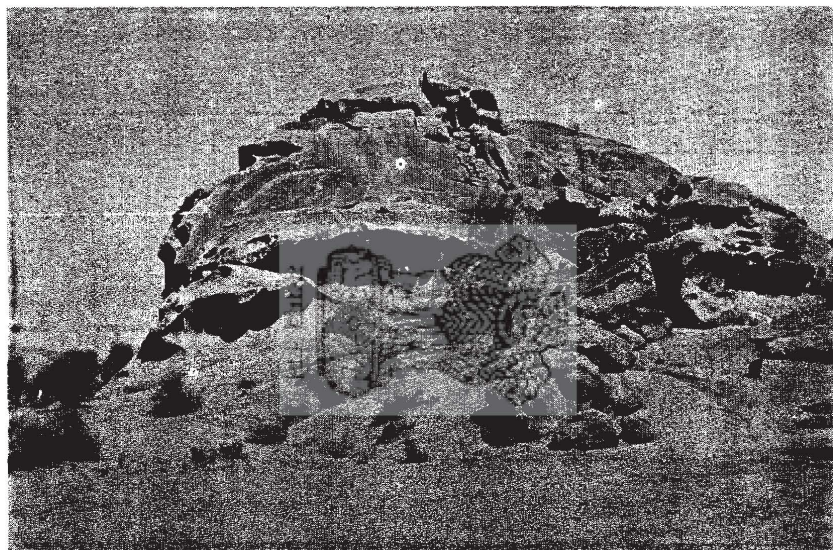
53. Matrika Indrani in marble,
Vadaval, C. late 7th Century
A.D. or early 8th Century A.D.

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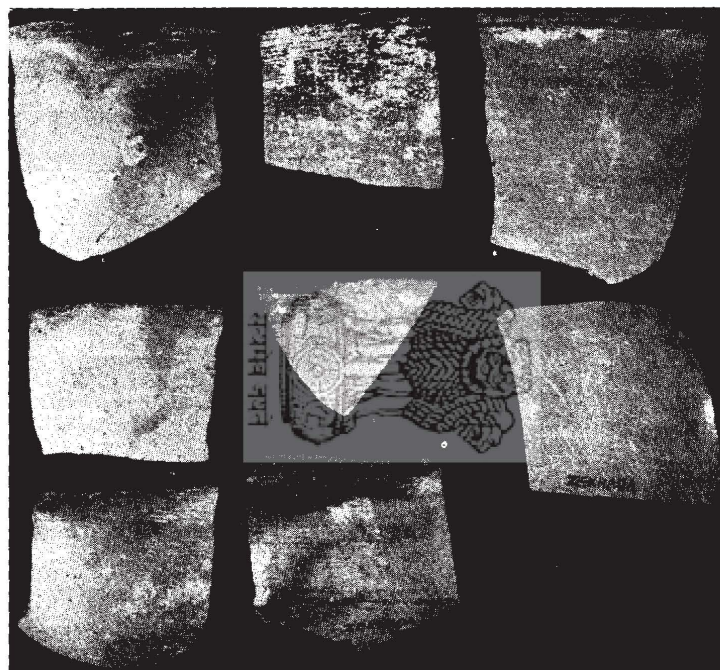


54. Rock Shelter, Amirgadh, Palanpur taluka.



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55. Black and Red ware discovered from Zekhda.



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